



Welcome!

Thank you for considering a medical mission trip with Kidz Konnect 4 Jesus Medical Team. We are a little different and want to make sure you are as well informed as possible, even if you come as a result of finding us on the web and not through a church connection.

Below is a welcome and brief overview from our founding Doctor and Medical Director, Ed Behling, MD, followed by an outline of typical clinic set up and flow. Our core team of physicians come on these clinic trips every 90 days and have since Jan 2011. We have been delayed by snow in 2014, and altered by Covid-19 in 2020-22, but the faithfulness of God has sustained this ministry. The teams have grown from 6- to a max of 80 in the last 12 years, but our average team size now is around 40 people from multiple churches and denominations.

To ensure our integrity as a ministry, protect the safety of our teams and most importantly our patients; we require all volunteers over age 18 submit to a background check. This is easy and covered in the cost of your trip. You will receive an email within a month of the trip date and if you follow the instructions the background check will be completed within minutes. Also please submit a copy of your license to practice medicine, nursing or any other role you may fill in the ever changing medical field, as well as a copy of your diploma notarized. Email copy to me and bring a hard copy with you.

Karen and David Rhodes founded Kidz Konnect 4 Jesus, please read more about the ministry in general on the home page of the website. This information is specifically for the medical teams, please read and reach out to me with any questions. My husband Todd and I have lived here in Belize since March 2014 and look forward to each and every team that comes along to minister with us.

In His Service,

Shirley Stone, R.N.

KidzKonnect 4 Jesus

Kidzkonnect4jesus.org

Shirley@kk4jesus.org

001 (country code)-501-615-7894-Belize cell

Dear Medical Missionary,

I am so very excited that God has chosen you to be a part of this trip to Belize. Regardless of your medical background, I promise that this will be an opportunity to give health care and spiritual ministry that will be unique from any other experience. The people we serve usually have no contact with any other health care provider apart from our quarterly trips. The need for improvement in the health of this population is great, yet it has been amazing and encouraging to see the impact this ministry has had since its inception just five years ago.

There are several aspects of this mission opportunity that make it unique. First and foremost, we seek to offer ongoing care. We return to the same villages quarterly. By using this model, we have been able to treat chronic conditions, and monitor progression of disease and response to therapy. It has been very rewarding to see hypertensive and diabetic patients become controlled and symptomatically improved! Additionally, we have developed relationships with local health care workers and facilities. This partnership has been instrumental in opening opportunities to serve and meet needs that would not be possible otherwise. Our trips have not only been welcomed, but encouraged and strengthened because of this cooperative relationship.

Many international missions organizations have considered Belize a "reached nation". Because of this, many organized groups have greatly curtailed or ceased missionary work in this country. Most of the people with whom we come in contact have a cursory knowledge of Jesus, but the seed has been sewed in such a shallow manner, there is no depth of understanding, nor a personal relationship with the Savior. Rather than be another group that does a one-time VBS or hands out gospel tracts, we feel it is more significant to SHOW these people the love of Jesus. Most have heard about it, but need to see it in action. This is the most important component of our mission work. By offering healing to their bodies, we can extend that relationship into a knowledge of the healing power of Jesus Christ. You will be their example of the Great Physician!

I am praying for each of you individually, and ask that you also recruit family and friends to pray diligently for you and for our work. I am truly looking forward to our journey together!

Serving Him Together,

Ed Behling

Belize Medical Clinic Set Up

Due to the volume of patients seen, and the variety of medical and psychological issues that the team encounters, it is critical that the team work together as a unit. There are several basic areas of function in the clinic, but there is a great deal of cross-functional activity as well. Please remember to “be flexible” in your job responsibilities. There is a great need in the clinic and mobile care unit for non-medical personnel, so rest assured that every person is valuable, and will be critical in our goal of delivering quality and holistic care to the people we serve. Be prepared to get “outside of your comfort zone” in order to do what is necessary to meet the needs of our patients. Rest assured that the other members of the team stand ready to help with support, answer questions, and address concerns. Remember – each person is a vital and integral part of our health care team.

We will strive to recruit local volunteers (or have members of our team arrive early) to begin setting up. Pharmacy is the most involved in setting up, but since it is the last station patients visit, they usually have time to get organized. Registration is also labor intensive to set up, and this is the starting point for our patients. If no advance help is available, the whole team should initially focus on the intake area, so that patients may start being served as quickly as possible. Similarly, at the end of the day, the pharmacy is the last to finish, so team effort is needed in packing up this area.

Intentional spiritual conversations are the paramount objective of the entire clinic. **Wait time** is prime opportunity to engage our patients by relating their physical need to the spiritual reality of eternity.

Pre- visit- (Registration) assessment of standing with Christ and prayer for their physical needs as appropriate.

Post provider visit -(Pharmacy) Education materials regarding their physical diagnosis can be tied to scripture that convicts for real life change.

These are perfect opportunities for non- medical volunteers to shine.

Patient coordination

At times, “crowd control” is a challenge. The population we serve is quite poor, and often feel desperate that they may miss the opportunity to receive health care. They frequently travel for miles to be seen, and are often tired and hungry. Managing patient flow is often a challenge, and team members and local volunteers can be used to help patients and family members to navigate the system.

- Have conversation with to waiting patients – show interest in them as a person and learn about them and their culture.
- Answer questions about our team, our mission, and our future trips.
- Provide education to patients and the bystanders – about health, hygiene, or perhaps a topic about which you are knowledgeable.
- Entertain children – there are lots of children. Playing ball or keeping children occupied in any way is a ministry to them, and a great service to the team. The children are curious, and

wander into the clinical areas, making it difficult to treat patients at times. Blowing up balloons or handing out candy is a treat for them, but if you do this, make sure you have plenty!

Enrollment

The crowd of patients to be seen must be organized to facilitate smooth and effective patient care.

- Assure patients that they will all be seen and receive good care.
- Make a list of all waiting patients in the order they are to be seen, and give the list to the registrant on the computer each time ten names are gathered. Make sure names are properly spelled.

Registration

The ministry has developed a database of patients, so that demographic information is stored for return visits. All patients are registered and information is maintained in a database to improve continuity of care. Each patient must have a record of the visit documented in the computer system.

- Research the database in the computer to determine if the patient has been seen before. Generate an encounter form with past encounter information.
- Interview new patients to obtain demographic data and contact information. This is needed for future appointments or in case follow up testing or referral is needed.

- Wrap up –make sure all encounter forms are in order, all computers / printers are packed securely, and make an inventory of needed supplies (paper, ink cartridges, etc)

Clinical History

Historical information concerning the patient and family members is critical to delivering good care. Current medications and allergies should be recorded.

- Past medical history – all chronic conditions and major illnesses
- Surgical history – type of surgery, and approximate date,
- Gynecologic history – number of pregnancies and deliveries, any complications, last pap smear, etc.
- Social history – indicate if the patients is married (or common-law) single, or divorced, as well as smoking, alcohol, and drug use information.
- Family history – list illnesses of immediate family members.
- Medications – list all medications that the patient is taking /prescribed. (indicate if the patient has run out or has stopped)
- Allergies – list all medications to which the patient has had a reaction, and the type of reaction experienced
- Wrap up – Inventory any supplies, and make a list of supplies needed for the following trip, and any suggestions for the area.

Intake/Triage

The extent of the intake function will depend on the medical background of the team member. Staff with a medical background may be able to evaluate and treat the patients who do not require a visit with a provider. The intake, clinical history, and triage functions may all be performed in one step based on volume of patients to be seen as well as the comfort level and training of the staff.

- Obtain vital signs -- specifically weight, pulse and blood pressure on all patients. Temperature should be measured on patients with possible infections. Many medications are dosed by weight, and the severity of some conditions and the effectiveness of treatment are based on vital signs. If measurements are out of range, the vital sign should be repeated.
- Record chief complaint and any pertinent history of the presenting illness. For example:
 - Follow up of hypertension, ran out of meds last month.
 - Follow up of diabetes, checks sugar at home, taking meds.
 - Sore throat and fever for 4 days.
 - Pain in left foot after falling off ladder last week.
- Identify (by circling) the care team / provider that the patient needs to see. Most patients will need to be seen in more than one area: Medical, Gynecology, Chiropractic, Optometry, Dental. Please make sure you are aware of which services are available, and what providers are coming on the next trip.

- Wrap up – Inventory and package all supplies, and make a list of supplies needed for the following trip, and any suggestions for the area.

Lab

Currently, no send out labs requiring phlebotomy are performed, but this is a service which will be added in the near future.

Appropriate labs should be performed before seeing the providers based on information obtained in the interview.

- Glucose testing – for all known diabetics or those with suspicious symptoms
- Hemoglobin measurement – for patients who are anemic, have excessive bleeding, or have symptoms of anemia.
- Urinalysis – for patients with urinary symptoms
- Urine pregnancy test – if suspected.
- Wrap up – Clean equipment and remove batteries. Inventory and package all lab equipment and supplies, and make a list of supplies needed for the following trip, and any suggestions for the area.

Flow Coordinator

Most patients to be seen require the services of multiple provider. It is extremely helpful to have an individual designated to navigate the patients through the system.

- Collect all encounter forms as the patient enter the general waiting area.

- Assure patients that they will all receive care.
- Coordinate visits among the providers – based on number of patients waiting and the order the patients arrive.
- Control the flow of the patients who arrive into the waiting area and those who are between providers.

Provider Encounter

Based on individual needs, patients will be directed to the appropriate care provider.

- Medical
- Gynecology
- Chiropractic
- Eye Care
- Dental
- Other Specialists as available

Escorts

All of the clinics are set up differently, so assisting patients in getting from one area to the next is critical.

Physically walking with the patients from one designated area to their next destination builds relationships, helps them from getting lost, and improves their experience (as well as the experience of the team members).

- From Entrance to Enrollment / Registration
- From Registration to Triage/Intake/Lab
- From Triage to Provider Waiting Area

- From Provider Encounter to Pharmacy

Medication dispensing

Providers will indicate the medications prescribed on the back of the patient's encounter form. This form will be taken to the pharmacy, and medications will be dispensed accordingly. Clear instructions for use should be given to each patient.

- Count and package the appropriate medication in the package.
- Write the patient's name clearly on every package.
- Review the name of the medication, the directions, and the purpose of the medication with every patient.
- Constantly scan the pharmacy to evaluate inventory and inform providers when stock is running low on certain medications, there is an excess of certain medications, or if there are medications with expiration dates in the next three months.

Patient Education

Providers will provide disease specific education when patients are seen. Additional education may be provided by individuals dispensing medication or in a group forum as patients wait to be seen. Printed materials may be used as well.

Finally

In keeping with the ministry of Kidz Konnect 4 Jesus, we miss no opportunity to make disciples. Especially in the medical clinic, where there is obvious need physically, conversation about spiritual need is very natural. We will take every chance to share and show Jesus to each patient. As Dr. Ed is faithful to say at least once daily, the patient in front of you is the most important...do not rush! Pray, pray, pray, as you begin each encounter, ask for the Holy Spirit's leading in boldly sharing the words He gives you. Our ministry to the body will be limited as doctors and nurses, but as ambassadors for Christ our ministry of reconciliation to God can have eternal impact! And that is way more exciting than treating any temporal physical ailment! The opportunity begins with people in line to register and ends with their exit...every step in between we should shower them with attention and Christ's love.

Each and every patient should be prayed with, as they are willing, at least once during their time with us, make sure you don't miss that privilege.

As you minister on a deeper spiritual level, you may become privy to issues that are beyond your scope of practice to handle. There are dire situations that require immediate intervention at times, maybe a physical need or deeper spiritual issues requiring counseling beyond what you can provide in a crowded setting. PLEASE, at the hint of abuse, physical or emotional, report immediately and discreetly. If you are uncomfortable in any situation or run into any questions you cannot answer, notify the Kidz Konnect 4 Jesus site manager, (identified daily at morning prayer time) immediately. We will handle every case with utmost respect and urgency to ensure the safety of those who come to us. Kidz Konnect 4 Jesus has become known as a safe haven for those in need. As such, there are those who try to take advantage, as well as those we need to minister to. These are not decisions we expect you as a team member to make. Please do NOT give answers or solutions outside of scripture. Refrain from offering your opinions and DO NOT make any promises. Guard any sensitive information as you would in any other context, much harm can be done with loose talk of another's pain. We are here to serve you as you serve others and we appreciate your sacrifice in coming. You will have our support for any difficult situations you may face. You are not alone!

Kidz Konnect 4 Jesus
Medical Ministry Team

Belize Checklist

PREPARE

- Raise necessary funds and pay, online or with check mailed, in full 30 days prior to departure
- Have passport ready
- Visit your doctor to receive any prescriptions for travel you may require. Bring at least one week of any medications you take daily.
- Recruit 5 or more prayer partners to pray daily for your trip
- Write out and practice your testimony/life story with others
- Leave emergency contact info, flight detail and a copy of your passport with a family member

BRING

Pack using the list in this handbook

Make 2 copies of your passport, bring one copy with you on your trip

Bug Spray

--- USE DAILY FIRST THING- Belize is not a dangerous place, but mosquitos can carry nasty viruses.

Flashlight

Long, lightweight clothing

Water bottle-wide mouth for refilling (empty on the plane☺)

----Climate in Belize is HOT and HUMID you will need to drink more water than usual. It is helpful to start a few days before coming, most travel/motion sickness can be minimized or avoided with proper hydration.

Sunglasses / sunscreen

MEDICAL TEAM

Scrubs

Comfortable shoes

Stethoscope

BP cuff (if available)

TRIP DETAILS

Make your flight arrangements to and from Belize City arriving as close to noon as possible and departing noon or after.

Please email a copy of your flight confirmation to

todd@kk4jesus.org

Please notify us if you have any unused luggage space.

Unused checked bags will be used for supplies

Travelers should arrive at the airport two hours before an international flight

DON'T FORGET YOUR PASSPORT – DOUBLE CHECK BEFORE YOU LEAVE YOUR HOUSE!!

Please come, rested well, prayed up, and excited about what God is going to do through you and to you on this amazing trip.

WARNING: Please come prepared to be changed forever.

