

Specialty: Internal Medicine

Country: Kenya

Location: Matangwe & Bondo

Rural/Urban: Rural

Hospital or non-hospital placement: Hospital & Orphanage

Type of placement: Pre-clerkship

Date: June 1st to July 1st, 2010

Project title:

Organization: Caring Partners Global

Website: www.caringpartners.ca

Main language spoken: Luo

Other language(s): English

Project description: Month-long observership at a rural clinic (Matangwe Clinic) with some time spent at Bondo District Hospital and the opportunity to spend time at the local community centre, schools, and orphanages. There was also a chance to participate in a medical outreach trip. As a group we raised money before going to Kenya and used the money to purchase drugs for the outreach and clinic.

Student experience description: At the Matangwe Clinic as a medical student I was able to observe the clinical officer and nurses in their day-to-day work. On HIV clinic days I could take patient's BP, HR, temp, etc. and record it before they saw the clinical officer. On Maternal health days we observed and assisted with the baby check-up and vaccinations. I was able to be present for a birth at the clinic and assisted the nurses to have everything ready in the room. The clinic was a Christian clinic and there were morning prayers and songs in which we were invited to participate; however, I do not believe that any student would be forced to participate and it felt like an optional (enjoyable) part of the day-to-day workings of the clinic.

At the Bondo District Hospital we rounded on all in-patients with one of the two physicians at the hospital. I was also able to visit other parts of the hospital to observe the inner workings of the Maternal Health Centre and outpatient care. I was given the option to perform minor procedures (suturing, blood draws, etc) but chose to observe only as I had not yet performed these tasks with supervision in Canada.

Placement safety: Yes, the accommodations were well-secured, transportation to the site was fairly reliable and the people at the clinic and hospital were very welcoming and accommodating.

Educational experience (out of 10): 7

Social/cultural experience (out of 10): 9

Does the organization have any religious affiliations? Yes

At any point did you feel expected to participate in religious activity? Yes

Program fee:

Dress code: We were instructed to wear scrubs to the clinic. Although the clinical officer was dressed more formally, the nurses also wore scrubs

Accommodation: We stayed at a local hotel in Bondo (7 km from Matangwe). There were shared or single rooms with private bathrooms. The restaurant in the hotel served a variety of local cuisine for very reasonable prices and there was a bar and television room in which the local community congregated to watch the World Cup. Mosquito nets were provided, there was no air conditioning but the rooms were usually a very comfortable temperature. Although the hotel did have hot running water our room did not have hot water for the duration of our stay.

Accommodation cost: less than \$10/day

Helpful hints: Establish a schedule to spend some time at the Matangwe Clinic but also at nearby hospitals, schools, and orphanages. The clinic has busier days (Tuesday-Thursday) when either HIV or mothers/babies are coming for check-ups but on Monday and Friday the patient load is very unpredictable. The Bondo Hospital was great to see more severe cases of HIV, malaria, trauma, etc. and the doctors were willing to teach. Try to organize a project at the Matangwe Clinic to keep you busy in between patients, there are some odd jobs to be done (counting pills, digging ditches, etc.) but as students are typically there for a month there is the possibility of contributing to ongoing projects at the clinic. Be very proactive in finding learning opportunities

Questions you are glad to have asked before leaving on placement: Packing list, recommended budget, weekend excursion ideas, transportation issues were provided to us and were very helpful

Questions you WISHED you asked before leaving on placement: I wish I had a better impression of the patient flow at the clinic so that we could arrange our schedule quickly to maximize different learning opportunities.

Overall, would you recommend this placement for future students? Yes