

Tips for Building Community in Clinics for Traveling Abortion Physicians

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When a physician travels to provide abortion care and is not part of the regular clinic team, conflicts can arise. To create a cohesive team, tips include:

- Formally introduce yourself to nurses, medical assistants, medical directors, etc. and remember names to help build relationships.
- Know the structure of the facility
- Who should you go to resolve problems?
- Who can you rely on medically; what is your back up plan?
- No job is beneath you; help out with little things like assisting the patient, helping clean up around you.
- Check in, take breaks. Demonstrate that you care about other staff's wellbeing
- Huddle with the team and learn location of emergency exits, location of crash cart, discuss how you like trays set up, etc.
- Giving Feedback
- Timing, situation, and relationship are all important in how your feedback is received. Check your intent in giving feedback- is it meaningful?
- If you notice a deficiency, offer to do a formal education on the topic at the clinic rather than just criticizing
- Stay informed about the communities you're working in. Get to know escort groups, culture, relationships with back-up providers, who you can trust to do medical follow-up.
- Have direct access to the person providing follow-up care and emergency backup.

Questions to Consider During Initial Conversation

When discussing a match between an advanced practice clinician or a physician and a clinic, here are some questions for both parties to consider. This list is not exhaustive; please think about other issues that you want to discuss in your initial conversations before arranging for an in-person visit/interview.

There are services that assist physicians in getting locum tenens licenses. CompHealth Headquarters is one company, located in Salt Lake City, Utah. They charge approximately \$700 for their service; each state/province has additional fees that range from \$400-\$800)

Travel

What, if any, travel will be reimbursed?

- Airfare
- Mileage
- Car rental
- Ground transportation, parking
- Hotel
- Meals

How is transport from the hotel to the site arranged (if overnight stay is required)?

How will costs of an in-person interview/visit be covered?

Medical Malpractice Insurance

How will medical malpractice insurance be arranged?

Who will cover the cost of medical malpractice insurance?

*Sites should check with their insurer. Many malpractice policies will cover a temporary physician.

Reimbursement

What is the reimbursement rate? (per procedure, per day?)

Is there a minimum payment guarantee per day/per trip?

Training

What are the expectations for training?

Clinic Operations

What is the typical daily volume of procedures?

What is the typical gestational age distribution?

How is the site staffed: number of counselors, nurses, physicians, etc.?

What, if any, contact will the visiting doctor have with other abortion providers at the site?

If needed, who performs pre-procedure ultrasound at the site?

Who performs ultrasound during the procedure, if needed?

Are any licensed staff other than the provider in the room while the procedure is being done?

Who is in the room during medication abortion visits?

What type of analgesia/anesthesia is available to patients?

Who administers analgesia/anesthesia to patients?

What is considered standard equipment at the site (MVA? Electric vacuum?)? If the clinician requests, are both available?

What are the security precautions for staff? For patients?

Are there any safety concerns about protesters or anti-choice picketers that the provider should be aware of?

What does the clinician need to bring to the facility for procedures (labcoat, stethoscope, scrubs, lock for locker etc.)?

What financial assistance is available for patients? How is this arranged?

What hospital/physician back-up is available in case of a problem or complication?

Is there clinical back-up for patients when the provider is not onsite or in the area?

What are the local regulatory restrictions, e.g., 24 hour consent, parental notification, US, display of US?