

# Medical Mission Trips

## Can My Team Go on a Medical Mission Trip?

You don't have to have significant international experience (or any at all!) or feel like you have a team of the greatest medical professionals in the world. Most importantly, we are looking for Christ-followers who love the Lord and want to use their skills to serve him and advance the Kingdom here on earth. If that describes your group, we'd love to have you! Most of our medical trips obviously require a core group of medical professionals, but these trips also have ministry opportunities for non-medical professionals as well.

We also want to make clear that we are looking for "groups" of medical professionals, either from the same church or same city or are part of a common group, and not looking for individuals. The primary reason for this is because we believe it can be extremely difficult and unwise to bring many different people from different backgrounds together to meet up in an international context and try to work effectively. There are many benefits when the group has some kind of connection or at least the possibility of being able to meet together before the trip to spend some time training, preparing, and praying for this trip.

Our goal for medical mission trips is two-fold:

- To support the ongoing ministry of our mission partners, who serve in this context year-round.
- To provide ministry opportunities for your team to advance the gospel (through medical clinics).

In order to accomplish this, we expect the following commitments and understanding from our medical teams:

- An understanding that the primary purpose of this trip is gospel-centered and not humanitarian-oriented. We are not merely hosting clinics to treat patients, but to have an opportunity to meet spiritual needs and invite people to church or future ministry events.

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- A commitment to have a licensed, medically competent team who is able to treat patients in a God-honoring manner. This includes having *at least* one doctor or physician, as well as multiple others who are licensed as doctors, physicians, nurses, or with other relevant experience (dentists, pharmacists, physical therapists, chiropractors, etc.). Not all team members must be currently licensed, but we expect a core group of your team to meet this requirement, and will be verifying this status. A great starting point is having a team with at least one doctor, at least 2-3 nurses or other medical professionals who are comfortable treating patients, a pharmacist who can help with prescribed medicines (without a pharmacist, you will need doctors or nurses who feel comfortable with this), and a supporting cast of medical or non-medical who can help with intake, waiting areas, and other details.
- An understanding that, even if your team might have more medical experience, you are not “in charge” of clinics, but are here to support the local ministry, who has a better understanding of their cultural context and best practices.
- An understanding that your team should adhere to evangelical theology that centers on salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Secondary theological issues should be left at the door as we agree to keep the main thing the main thing and focus on the gospel above all else.

If your team understands and agrees to the bullet points above, it sounds like you meet the requirements to go on a medical mission trip with Servant Life!

If you have more questions or want to talk about what it would look like for your group to go on a trip like this, please contact us at [info@servantlife.com](mailto:info@servantlife.com) or give us a call at 800.772.2615.

