

The Role of Pharmacy Technicians on Medical Mission Trips



April Marzullo, CPhT
Fairview Ridges Hospital
Burnsville, MN

The speaker has no conflict of interest to disclose



About Me

- Certified Pharmacy Technician for 6+ years.
- Work at FRH in Burnsville, MN.
- Co-Leader of a Medical Mission Trip to Kenya 2008-2009.
- Will be going back this December to Co-Lead another Medical Mission Trip to Kenya.

Today

- Designed primarily for the Pharmacists and Technicians to acquire factual knowledge about Medical Mission Trips.
- We will discuss my experience with GOYA Ministries in the Mitumba Slum of Nairobi, Kenya.



Learning Objectives for Today

- Explain the Role of the Pharmacy Technician on Medical Mission Trips.
- Present the Pros and Cons of having Technicians on Medical Mission Trips.
- Translate the experience of one Technician on a Medical Mission Trip to other Technicians.
- Relate the importance of assisting Medical Professionals all over the world.

Pharmacy Technician- Previous Experience

- Anyone ever gone on a Medical Mission Trip?
- What countries have you gone to?
- How many of you would go back, if given the opportunity to return or go to another place in the world?



Where Do You Work?

- Hospital?
- Long Term Care Facilities?
- Clinics?
- Retired?
- Other?



GOYA Ministries

- CEO is Chad Parker from Bloomington, IL.
- Had a vision to help people from all over the world.
- Discovered Mitumba Slum of Nairobi, Kenya.
- Last December was the 1st Medical Mission Trip to Mitumba Slum.
- The next one is December 2009.

GOYA Has Accomplished:

- Starting a school and is currently working on a secondary school
- The First Medical Camp/Station in Mitumba Slum
- Opening the Doors of an Orphanage
- Building a 2 story Dinning Hall for the 315 school kids/orphans
- Sending 5 teams to one of the poorest regions of the world



GOYA TEAM from the USA

- 1 PharmD
- 1 Certified Pharmacy Technician
- 1 EMT/Fire Chief
- 1 Nursing student
- 2 "Non-Medical" people willing to learn



GOYA Partners from Kenya

- 2 Doctors
- 2 Chemists
- 2 Chemist Assistants
- 10 Interpreters



The Role of the Pharmacy Technician

- Assist Pharmacists
- Prep the medications for dispensing
- Count out medications
- Help maintain patient profiles



Pros for Having Pharmacy Technicians on Medical Mission Trips

- Joy of volunteering
- Travel the world
- Keep the Pharmacists focused and not overwhelmed
- Are a comforting peer to the pharmacists



Additional Pros

- Prepare and gather the required medications
- Assist the pharmacists with patient profiles
- Put information into layman's terms for the patients
- Keep the pharmacists cool, calm, and collected



Audience:

What are some more Pros you consider for having Pharmacy Technicians go on Medical Mission Trips?

Do you find it valuable for us, as Technicians, to go on them?



Cons for Having Pharmacy Technicians on a Medical Mission Trip

- They are not a "professional" according to some people
- Can not give direct patient education, per specific laws



Additional Cons

- Can not dispense medications without first being checked by a Pharmacist/Chemist
- We do not have all the “required” knowledge to treat patients with different illnesses
- We are not aware of all the side effects of the medications given to people



Audience:

What Cons do you see about Pharmacy Technicians going on a Medical Mission Trips?

Do you feel it is valuable for Pharmacy Technicians to go on Medical Mission Trips?



Audience:

Turn to the person on your Left and tell them a Con for having a Pharmacy Technician go on a Medical Mission Trip

Now-Turn to the Right and tell them a Pro for having a Pharmacy Technician on a Medical Mission Trip

Translating My Experiences- What/Who We Treated:

- Malaria
- Dehydration
- Worms
- Burns
- Vision for reading
- We treated over 350 people in Mitumba Slum and Masai Land



What Conditions We Couldn't Treat

- AIDS
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Tuberculosis
- Cataracts
- High Blood Pressure



Fundraisers

- Sold "Candy for Kenya" and bought medications
- Bake Sale/Merchandise sale for the Medical Clinic Supplies
- Gathered Money for Shoes
- BINGO for the Orphanage



***Fundraiser:
Gathered Money for Shoes***

- MN raised money for Brand New Shoes
- We brought shoes for 250 children in the school and orphanage



***Fundraiser:
Sold "Candy for Kenya" and
Bought Medications***

- Hand Sanitizer
- Band-Aids/Gauze
- Pepto Bismol
- Robitussin
- Tylenol/Motrin
- Triple Antibiotic Ointment



***Items We Bought While
in Nairobi, Kenya***

- Otoscope & Stethoscope
- Paracetamol (Tylenol)
- Pain Medications
- Jugs of Cough Syrup
- Antibiotics
- De-worming Medication
- Multi-Vitamins
- Fungal Creams



Fundraiser: BINGO for the Orphanage

- There are 30+ kids living here
- Both parents are dead or legally abandoned their children
- Bought bunk beds for every child including sheets and a pillow



Assisting Medical Professionals all Over the World

- Important peers to one another
- Help maintain order while prescribing medications



Assisting One Another

- Technicians know the names of medications
- We get the job done more proficiently and accurately with Technicians and Pharmacist working together on Medical Mission Trips
- We are also Professionals
- There is respect for one another
- We need each other in the pharmacy, so why not need each other all over the world

*I hope each and everyone of you
see the importance in the Role of
having Pharmacy Technicians
go on Medical Mission Trips.
We are a valuable asset to the
team of professionals.*

*Thank you very much for your time and
attention this morning.*

*If you have any questions please see me
afterwards.*

*Feel free to look at some pictures and
additional information from my trip I
have brought with me today.*

April Marzullo, CPhT



Role of Pharmacy Technician on a Medical Mission

April Marzullo

1) What is the Primary Role of The Pharmacy Technician on a Medical Mission Trip?

- A) To get water for the team members
- B) Dispense medications without the Pharmacist approval
- C) Work hand in hand with the pharmacist and other medical staff
- D) Prepare Medications for patients in the Medical Clinics
- E) C & D only

2) Which Pharmacy Technicians can go on Medical Mission Trips?

- A) Hospital Technicians
- B) Long Term Care Facility Technicians
- C) Retail Technicians
- D) Clinic Technicians
- E) All of the above

3) What is a Con to having a Pharmacy Technician on a Medical Mission Trip?

- A) They can not give direct patient care without the supervision of a pharmacist
- B) They are just in the way and can never help
- C) They have no experience helping professionals
- D) They are not allowed to work next to professionals in other countries

4) What is a Pro to having a Pharmacy Technician on a Medical Mission Trip?

- A) Get to travel the world
- B) Gather Medications for the patients and assist the pharmacist on other medical professionals
- C) Get to sit and do nothing while watching everyone else around you treats patients
- D) A & B

5) Why is it valuable for Pharmacy Technicians to go on Medical Mission Trips?

- A) You gain valuable knowledge and experience all over the globe
- B) You don't have to deal with your boss for a couple of weeks
- C) You get a new perspective on life
- D) All of the above