

PPIHN Info for Prosthetists, Technicians & Physical Therapists

Patients are seen for evaluation for new prostheses and/or repairs to their existing devices the first several days of the trip. We see patients starting the day after arrival. Expect 20+ patients to be at the clinic in one day, which are divided between prosthetists on the team. Typical work hours are 8am to 5-6pm, including Saturday. We try to rest Sunday afternoon after church, but if we determine as a group that we need to work due to time constraints, we will.

*We approach all patients seen during the trip as a team effort. We encourage and expect everyone to be asking each other questions and input on best design for each patient, help with unique presentations (which are plentiful due to existing medical care in Zambia), and an overall team effort to provide the best care for each patient and completing all needed fabrication.

* Everyone uses their strengths and skills but expect overlap into what are “typical” job descriptions.

(Prosthetists filling casts, physical therapists helping with prosthetic assembly, prosthetists helping with/doing laminations, technicians seeing patients along with prosthetists)

* Translators are staff at New Day Orphanage who volunteer on patient days to help our team with translating for patients.

Prosthetists:

- Each will have a room for seeing patients back-to-back through the first few days of evals and last days of the trip for fittings. If you have specific casting materials you are comfortable working with, let us know. Plaster rolls are the typical casting material. If you prefer casting tape, please make sure we know what type/brand to order for the trip.
- There are NO test sockets. We do not have time for this step during our short trip, so we go straight to laminations.
- AK prostheses are mostly CJ Sockets for adjustability by the patients. Other AK sockets are fine if you are not familiar with CJ Sockets or have not done the CJ socket course.
- Cushion and locking liners are used for most patients. Pelite liners and socks are an option as well.
- Be upfront with what type of patients you are most comfortable seeing. Ex) are you better with BKs vs AKs? Better with adults vs pediatrics?....Use your strengths and communicate with the team on how you work best.

Technicians:

- During eval days at the beginning of the trip, you will be primarily working on repairs of prostheses and setting up workshop area and lamination area how you like it.
- There are 2 lamination stations and expect to do 6-10 laminations per day during fabrication days in the middle of the trip.
- Lock dummies used are:
 - Bulldog cylindrical lock for single lam----dummy product# LPFK-65SS
 - Fillauer original shuttle lock for double lam----dummy product# 125239
- Suggested layup information is provided for laminations.
- During fitting days, you will assist with adjustments to finished prostheses for fittings (pylon length change, socket trimline adjustment, etc)

Physical Therapists:

- Prior to evaluation days (first day of patients arriving at the clinic), physical therapists can assist with organizing the supply closet and the exam rooms.

- Day of evaluations, you will help with intake/organization of patients, measures taken by prosthetists, organizing supplies and assisting staff at New Day as needed.
- Word of mouth may bring patients for physical therapy at unscheduled times. This is often mom's and young children with neurological diagnoses looking for assistance with stretching, exercises etc. Some orthopedic cases show up as well with complaints of pain post various injuries of extremities or spine.
- Be open to stopping the task you are working on to serve the patients that arrive for PT as needed as scheduling is different in this environment.
- Some patients for prosthetic/ orthotic services that require only adjustments may also require assistance with assistive devices, in which you can be of service.
- When patients return to the clinic to receive their devices after fabrication is complete, you will have the opportunity to teach them with gait training, exercises and fitting for assistive devices as indicated. This is a quick education as they are likely only there for the one day. The patients in this environment learn quickly and are highly motivated to use what you teach them.
- There will be down time in the evenings for dinner and fellowship. This a great opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture at the Zambian orphanage. Activities may include interacting with the kids, acapella worship and prayer outside and games as they go on.