

Joan Viteri Memorial Clinic: Medical Student Volunteer Guide

3647 40th Street, Sacramento, CA 95817

Clinic Hours: The clinic's public hours are from 1pm to 5pm. The Co-Directors generally arrive at around noon or 12:15, and the medical student volunteers at 12:30 so they can be oriented to the clinic's layout, clerical procedures, etc.

Prior to Visit: [On the clinic signup page](#), please provide us with your email address and phone number, so that we can send you further details, and can contact you should there be a clinic cancellation.

Things to Know About Our Clinic:

- Our clinic focuses more on acute care issues. You can expect to see things like abscess drainages, infections, physicals for jobs, Hepatitis C testing, Hepatitis A/B vaccinations, STD testing as well as any of the other general things you might go to your friendly neighborhood free clinic for.
- Most of our patients have some history of prior or current drug use (heroin, other opioids, methamphetamines, etc).
- Our clinic is relatively small; we see on average 12-14 patients a day in three rooms with one preceptor. There are generally two or three Co-Directors working.
- We have one undergraduate volunteer who assists us with vitals, organization and some clerical work, who may be interested in shadowing you when you're comfortable. The medical students do the rest of the intake and clerical work.
- **Dress at clinic is informal!** Please wear scrubs or jeans with a scrub top and closed toed shoes. Also, please *do not* wear your white coat.
- Supplies: you should try and bring a stethoscope, reflex hammer, notebook, pen and a smile!

Anatomy of a Patient Encounter:

- Obtain the chart of the next patient to be seen. Review it and take the patient to the appropriate room.
- Conduct interview and perform relevant physical exam. Do as much as you feel comfortable with.
- Excuse yourself, track down preceptor and present patient.
- Return to the room and see the patient with the preceptor.
- Decide on treatment plan and execute it (prescribe or dispense medications, give advice, do referrals), see patient on their way.
- Write up your SOAP note to be signed by you, the preceptor and fellow medical student reviewer.
- Repeat until you drop or we run out of patients!

JVMC's Harm Reduction Policy: We recognize that not all of our patients can simply walk away from their addictions *right at this moment*. Until they are ready to do so, it is our role to prevent, mitigate or reduce the harm from their addictions. This can include counseling on clean injection practices, treatment for withdrawal symptoms, and treating diseases associated with their addictions. Additionally, when the patient is ready to take the next step, it is also our role to encourage and assist them towards their goal of breaking their addiction.

When you volunteer, we encourage you to do as much as you feel comfortable with. Shadowing a second year or one of the Co-Directors is a great way to get started; *you won't be on your own until you want to be*. If you have any questions, please, please, please don't hesitate to ask any of the Co-directors for help or advice. We were first years a year ago too, so we know how it feels to be in your shoes! We look forward to seeing you all in clinic!