

Rapid Response Team (RRT) FAQs



What is the Rapid Response Team (RRT)?

The RRT is a designated group of volunteers on each mission team who are prepared to respond to medical emergencies during the mission week involving Faith In Practice patients, volunteers, or staff. RRT goals are to stabilize and manage acute emergencies until transport to a higher level of care is available. The RRT is prepared to respond to emergencies throughout the mission week in clinics, hotels, Obras/HHG hospitals, and village locations. The RRT model is designed to improve emergency preparedness, communication, coordination, and patient safety in mission settings.

What are the components of the RRT?

Each mission team should identify RRT members, each with clearly assigned emergency response roles. Suggested roles include: RRT Leader, Airway Management, Compressions/CPR, AED/Defibrillator, IV/Medication Support, Recorder/Documentation.

Who can serve on the RRT?

RRT members should be volunteers willing to respond during emergencies and participate in preparedness activities. BLS certification is strongly encouraged when possible. Teams may also include volunteers with ACLS/ALS or additional emergency response experience based on team composition. The Team Doctor may fill any role on the RRT. The Team Doctor is not required to lead the RRT.

What needs to happen before the mission?

At least 2 weeks before the mission:

- The Mission Team Leader identifies the RRT Leader.
 - The RRT Leader identifies additional RRT members and assigns roles when possible.
 - The RRT reviews RRT guidance materials, including responsibilities, communication expectations, and STAT bag contents.
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What happens once the team arrives in Guatemala?

At the start of the mission week, the RRT Leader ensures the RRT members:

- Familiarize and evaluate the STAT bag/backpack and emergency equipment using an established checklist.
 - Develop and review emergency communication plans and contact procedures.
 - Confirm RRT role assignments and reinforce emergency response expectations for the mission setting.
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Why is the RRT important?

Mission environments may involve limited resources, transportation delays, and communication challenges. The RRT helps ensure a more organized, prepared, and coordinated emergency response to stabilize individuals until transport to higher-level care can occur.

When should the RRT be activated?

The RRT should be activated immediately for any serious or potentially life-threatening medical event involving a patient, volunteer, staff member, or visitor participating in or directly connected to a Faith In Practice mission activity. RRT structure and resources are intended specifically to support official Faith In Practice mission operations, teams and sanctioned mission environments.