



Surgery Mission Teams – Role Descriptions

Table of Contents

Anesthesia Director	2
Anesthesia Provider	3
Interpreter	4
Nurse Circulator	5
Operating Room Director	6
Pharmacist	7
Physical Therapist/Occupational Therapist	8
Post-Op Nurse	9
Pre-Op Nurse	10
Spiritual Care and Leadership	11
Scrub Tech/Scrub Nurse	14
Surgeon	15
Team Doctor	17
Ward Physician	18

Surgery – Anesthesia Director

Position Summary

The Anesthesia Director role must be filled by an actively working, licensed, and board-certified anesthesiologist (MD), preferably someone who has served on previous Faith In Practice surgery mission trips. All teams are required to have one more anesthesia provider than number of operating rooms that the team plans to run during the mission week. At least two providers on the anesthesia team must be MDs. The Anesthesia Director should not be assigned to an operating room; they should be free to float between the operating rooms, recovery, and pre-op areas. The Anesthesia Director is responsible for all narcotics administered to patients during pre-op, surgery and recovery and for the direction and supervision of nurses and other Anesthesia Providers.

Pre-Trip Duties / Responsibilities

- The Anesthesia Director, along with the team leader(s), is responsible for the identification and selection of anesthesia care providers for the team.
 - If a team plans to do surgery on children, the team must bring at least one anesthesiologist that is experienced in the care of children.
- Review Obras Orientation and Rules document (*only for volunteers serving on an Obras Surgery team) which will be emailed to the team before the trip.
- Faith In Practice provides certain supplies and medications for each team. Please review the Supplies and Medications list, which can be found on the [Volunteer Resource Page](#), before the trip.

Duties / Responsibilities During Trip

Triage Day

- Check the anesthesia machines and ensure they are in working order.
- Check that the Crash Cart and Malignant Hypothermia (MH) box are properly stocked.

During the Week

- Make daily anesthesia assignments; provider may rotate rooms throughout the day.
- Make the final decision about an individual patients' fitness for surgery.
- If there is not a licensed pharmacist serving on your team, the Anesthesia Director is responsible for maintaining a detailed inventory of the controlled substances used throughout the week, in pre-op, surgery, and recovery.

Surgery – Anesthesia Provider

Position Summary

The Anesthesia Provider role can be filled by an actively working, licensed, and board-certified anesthesiologist (MD) or a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). All teams are required to have one more Anesthesia Provider than number of operating rooms that the team plans to run during the mission week. At least two providers on the anesthesia team must be MDs. An Anesthesia Assistant (AA) may assist the other Anesthesia Providers under direct supervision, but they cannot administer anesthesia independently and will not count towards the minimum number of required anesthesia providers on a team.

Pre-Trip Duties / Responsibilities

- Review Obras Orientation and Rules document (*only for volunteers serving on an Obras Surgery team) which will be emailed to the team before the trip.
- Faith In Practice provides certain supplies and medications for each team. Please review the Supplies and Medications list, which can be found on the [Volunteer Resource Page](#), before the trip.

Duties / Responsibilities During Trip

Triage Day

- Once the surgeon decides a patient will need surgery, complete a thorough pre-op medical screening.
 - Take a complete history, review the patient's tests to determine if the patient is healthy enough to undergo surgery. Be sure to ask patients for their test results.
- Review pre-operative instructions and explain the risks of anesthesia to the patient.
- If the Anesthesia Provider does not speak Spanish, an interpreter will be assigned to assist them during triage.

During the Week

- Before beginning and ending a case, the surgeon, Anesthesia Provider and circulator must do a timeout.
- Complete the Anesthesia Form on each patient's chart.
- Work with the pharmacist and anesthesia team to complete the Narcotic Reconciliation process to ensure every dose of controlled medication is accounted for.
- Work with the pharmacist and anesthesia team to collect all empty vials of controlled medicines which must be returned to the hospital.

Surgery Team – Interpreter

Position Summary

Interpreters are critical to the success of Faith In Practice surgical missions. Interpreters may be called upon to do a number of tasks during the mission week. It is of utmost importance that interpreters assigned to translate medical information have the skills to do so.

Pre-Trip Duties / Responsibilities

- Review [Spanish Medical Terms](#) document provided by Faith In Practice

Duties / Responsibilities During Trip

- Interpreting/translating between surgeons and patients, and anesthesiologists and patients, to communicate key information on Triage Clinic Day.
- Interpreting/translating between surgeons, patients, and local nurses and doctors on daily rounds, as patients recover from surgery.
- Communicating and connecting with patients before and after surgery, in pre-op and recovery. Interpreting/translating between surgeons and patients' families about the progress of patients' surgeries.
- Interpreting during consultations in special clinics, such as mobility or audiology.
- Interpreting between the Ward Physician/Nurse, the hospital staff, and patients on matters of education and patient care.
- Supporting the Team Spiritual Leader to communicate with patients and families.
- Supporting Photographer/Blogger in communicating with patients to collect photos and patient stories for the Team Blog.
- Facilitating a connection between fellow team members and Guatemalans by translating speeches and prayers at gatherings.
- Possible support as medical scribe on Sunday Triage.

Surgery Team – Nurse Circulator

Position Summary

Besides the surgeon and anesthesia provider, the minimum number of experienced OR personnel are: one actively practicing and licensed circulator nurse and one actively practicing and licensed or certified scrub technician or nurse per operating room. The Circulator nurse role must be filled by a Registered Nurse who is currently licensed, actively practicing, and has experience assisting with the types of surgeries the team will be performing. Each OR must have a licensed nurse (not including the CRNA) to be able to assist the anesthesiologist in providing emergency care in the event of a cardiac or respiratory arrest.

Pre-Trip Duties / Responsibilities

- Review Obras Orientation and Rules document (*only for volunteers serving on an Obras Surgery team) which will be emailed to the team before the trip.
- Faith In Practice provides certain supplies and medications for each team. Please review the Supplies and Medications list, which can be found on the [Volunteer Resource Page](#), before the trip.

Duties / Responsibilities During Trip

Triage Day

- Set up each OR, ensuring the necessary supplies are available.
- Check that each room has the necessary equipment in working order.

Surgery Days

- Before beginning and ending a case, the surgeon, anesthesia provider, and circulator must do a timeout.
- Work with the Scrub Nurse/Tech to complete the Count Sheet for each surgery.
- Assist the anesthesia provider as needed throughout the procedure.
- Assist in positioning of the patient following intubation of the airway.
- Open sterile supplies during the procedure according to aseptic technique.
- Receive and orient non-medical volunteers about the sterile field, place them safely outside the parameters of the sterile field.
 - Do NOT allow non-medical volunteers to enter the sterile field.
- Accompany the patient to PACU.
- Assist with room turnover.

Surgery Team – Operating Room Director

Position Summary

The Operating Room Director works closely with the Team Leaders both prior to the mission and during the mission week. Responsibilities may include assessing and determining the supply and medication needs of the team, as well as improving OR workflow by shifting roles for members when necessary throughout the week. The OR Director role should be filled by someone with a medical background such as a Nurse, Nurse Practitioner, or Medical Doctor.

Pre-Trip Duties / Responsibilities

- In conjunction with the Team Leader, communicate with team members prior to departure by telephone, personal letters, or emails.
- Assist in recruiting medical professionals to fill team roles.
- Assist in gathering necessary medical supplies for the team.
- Work with Team Leader to determine and assign Triage, OR, post-op, and support roles to team members before departure.
- Review Obras Orientation and Rules document (*only for volunteers serving on an Obras Surgery team) which will be emailed to the team before the trip.
- Faith In Practice provides certain supplies and medications for each team. Please review the Supplies and Medications list, which can be found on the [Volunteer Resource Page](#), before the trip.

Duties / Responsibilities During Trip

- Create a partnership with Guatemalan physicians and staff.
- Communicate to staff who is filling the triage, OR, post-op, and support roles upon arrival in Guatemala.
- Coordinate with the surgeons on scheduling details for each day of surgery.
- Work with the Anesthesia Director to coordinate anesthesia personnel and supplies.
- Control access to the operating room area by non-medical Faith In Practice volunteers in order to maintain a sterile surgical field and uncluttered OR area. The OR Director is responsible for orienting the observers on OR sterile technique.

Surgery Team – Pharmacist

Position Summary

The Pharmacist will work closely with the Anesthesia team and pre/post-operative nursing team to oversee the management and dispensation of medications for surgical patients according to the Surgeons' orders. This role should be filled by a licensed Pharmacist (PharmD or RPh).

Pre-Trip Duties / Responsibilities

- Review Obras Orientation and Rules document (*only for volunteers serving on an Obras Surgery team) which will be emailed to the team before the trip.
- Faith In Practice provides certain supplies and medications for each team. Please review the Supplies and Medications list, which can be found on the [Volunteer Resource Page](#), before the trip.
- Work with Team Leaders and Surgeons to determine if the team will need to bring any additional medications (*Please note, narcotics are prohibited from being brought into Guatemala*).

Duties / Responsibilities During Trip

Triage Day

- Complete inventory of medications to be used for the week. Notify staff as soon as possible if additional quantities of the medications on the formulary are needed.
- Oversee the packaging and labeling of medications to be dispensed for the week.

Surgery Days

- Prepare anesthesia trays. Keep controlled medicines locked throughout the day.
- Work with surgeons to complete post-op notes and discharge orders, ensuring the medications that are ordered are in stock and readily available.
- Work with the anesthesia team to oversee compliance of Narcotic Reconciliation process to ensure every dose of controlled meds is accounted for.
- Work with the anesthesia team to oversee the collection of all empty vials of controlled medicines which must be returned to the hospital.
- Dispense post-op medications for the ward and patient discharge.
- Prepare post-op antibiotics and determine substitutions when necessary.
- Prepare narcotic doses and calculation of dilutions.
- At the end of the week, complete a final inventory of all medications and notify staff if any medications need to be re-stocked.



Surgery Team – Physical Therapist/Occupational Therapist

Position Summary

This role can be filled by a Physical Therapist or Occupational Therapist. The PT/OT will provide post-operative physical therapy consultation to patients who have received orthopedic surgery (hip, knee, foot & ankle, or trauma).

Pre-Trip Duties / Responsibilities

- Review Obras Orientation and Rules document (*only for volunteers serving on an Obras Surgery team) which will be emailed to the team before the trip.
- Faith In Practice provides certain supplies and medications for each team. Please review the Supplies and Medications list, which can be found on the [Volunteer Resource Page](#), before the trip.

Duties / Responsibilities During Trip

- Work on the post-op wards providing physical therapy to orthopedic patients as indicated by the team's surgeons.
- Ensure that there are enough aids (crutches, walkers, canes, knee immobilizers, etc.) to assist in the therapy of patients. Each team should have access to ambulatory aids in a variety of appropriate sizes. Please see Faith In Practice staff to address special patient needs or you can always consult with Obras PTs.

Surgery Team – Post-Op Nurse

Position Summary

The post-op nurse role can be filled by a Registered Nurse or Nurse Practitioner who is currently licensed and has experience working in Post-Operative or Critical Care units.

Pre-Trip Duties / Responsibilities

- Review Obras Orientation and Rules document (*only for volunteers serving on an Obras Surgery team) which will be emailed to the team before the trip.
- Faith In Practice provides certain supplies and medications for each team. Please review the Supplies and Medications list, which can be found on the [Volunteer Resource Page](#), before the trip.

Duties / Responsibilities During Trip

Triage Day

- Set up the pre/post-op area: review the equipment (i.e. PACU monitors) and ensure they are in working order and that you know how to operate it.
- Set up the PACU with an assortment of oxygen equipment (masks, tubes, cannulas, etc.), IV supplies, syringes, and other supplies.
- Work with Anesthesia Director to check the Crash Cart and MH box are stocked.
- Check the Defibrillator and make sure it is in working order and you know how to use it.

Surgery Days

- Chart the medications given and any actions taken with the patient.
- Document temperature and blood pressure in addition to any abnormal findings.
- Keep a detailed inventory of all controlled meds administered to the patient.
- Before the patient leaves the recovery area, under the direction of the surgeon, must ensure that all post-op documentation is completed.
- Please note that patients may not let you know that they are in pain, so you will need to look for other signs of pain (grimace, elevated blood pressure, fidgeting, etc.). Guatemalans don't take pain medication often (or any other kind of medication), so a little pain medication goes a long way.
- When the patient is ready for discharge to the ward, notify the hospital staff. They will double-check to be sure the paperwork is complete and notify the floor. The hospital staff will transport the patient.

It is required to have someone who speaks Spanish in both the pre-op and post-op areas.

Surgery Program – Pre-Op Nurse

Position Summary

The Pre-Op nurse role can be filled by a Registered Nurse or Nurse Practitioner who is currently licensed and has experience working in peri-operative care.

Pre-Trip Duties / Responsibilities

- Review Obras Orientation and Rules document (*only for volunteers serving on an Obras Surgery team) which will be emailed to the team before the trip.
- Faith In Practice provides certain supplies and medications for each team. Please review the Supplies and Medications list, which can be found on the [Volunteer Resource Page](#), before the trip.

Duties / Responsibilities During Trip

Triage Day

- Set up the pre/post-op area: review the equipment and ensure it is in working order and that you know how to operate it.
- Set up the pre-op area with necessary supplies and review emergency cart.

Surgery Days

- Coordinate with the hospital staff assigned to pre-op area to confirm pre-op practices, prior to the beginning of the surgical week:
 - Starting IVs in children (if applicable).
 - Standard IV antibiotics.
 - Cleaning procedures between patients.
 - Timeout and transfer procedure.
- Chart the medications given and any actions taken with the patient.
- Keep a detailed inventory of all controlled meds administered to the patient.
- Start IVs for adult patients in the pre-op area.

It is required to have someone who speaks Spanish in both the pre-op and post-op areas.

Spiritual Care and Leadership

Position Summary

The Spiritual Care and Leadership role has been prayerfully created with the following primary purposes:

1. Establish/reinforce the Faith in Practice team's mission to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in our medical and dental care of the poor of Guatemala, in our fellowship with Faith In Practice team members and to whomever we encounter in Guatemala.
2. Provide comforting presence, prayer and pastoral care to the patients, volunteers and staff.
3. As a part of the morning team meetings, present Bible-based devotionals (10-20 minutes) that reflect the mission and guiding principles of Faith In Practice.
4. Provide a welcoming and respectful atmosphere to people of all faith traditions.
5. Be available and seek out opportunities to support team members as they navigate the daily mission experiences that may be frightening, disturbing or joy filled.
6. In support of the team leader and staff, provide guidance in the context of Christ-centered conflict resolution and crisis management.
7. Invite volunteers to experience what God is doing to transform lives in Guatemala and encourage them to take the next step in their personal journey of faith.

Qualifications: Character, Competency, and Calling

- Strong personal relationship with Jesus Christ, exhibiting humility, integrity, and spiritual maturity.
- Ability to lead others in faith through pastoral care, teaching, and compassionate presence.
- Capability to provide care in emotionally and spiritually challenging situations.
- Sensitivity to interfaith awareness while confidently modeling Christian love and servanthood.

Pre-Trip Duties/ Responsibilities

Leadership

As you are expected to fulfill a leadership role, it is important that you uphold the guidelines and standards set forth by Faith In Practice. Therefore, please review the following information found on the Faith In Practice website under the tab "About Us":

- **Guiding Principles**
- **Our Mission and Our Approach**

Pastoral Care for Volunteers

1. Pray for the team. Use the team roster to pray for team members by name. Pray also for the success of the mission.
2. Prepare for the daily devotionals.
 - There are resources and materials prepared by other Spiritual Care and Leadership Volunteers in the Faith In Practice offices, and they are available for your use. Please contact Mark Woolf, MD for more information.
 - Here are some helpful guidelines to consider when preparing the devotionals and materials for use during devotionals:
 - State the spiritual theme of the week.
 - Provide the scriptural references for the week's devotionals.
 - Encourage themes of servanthood, compassion, and healing. (e.g. Isaiah 58, Matthew 25).
 - Promote spiritual enrichment and contemplation concerning Christian principles as outlined in the "Spiritual Mission and Goals of Faith In Practice."
 - Reflect on encountering Christ in the poor and vulnerable.
 - Consider a plan for music, including providing words to songs and participation by musicians.
 - Provide materials for journaling.
3. Prepare personally. This experience is an opportunity for renewal and challenge for you personally. The team members, volunteers, and patients will all benefit from your preparations for the week.

Pastoral Care for Patients

1. Pray for the patients and the families who await the team's arrival. Expect to be impressed and inspired by the faith, patience and endurance of many of the patients you encounter.
2. Understand the circumstances of our patients as you interact with them and participate in their pastoral care.

Duties / Responsibilities During Trip

Pastoral Care for Volunteers

1. Participate fully with the team in all activities and programs.
2. Lead the prayer at team meetings and meals.
3. Plan and present the devotionals and services every day, incorporating events that occurred the day before in the context of the spiritual setting.
4. For village teams, consider how to include those Guatemalan volunteers who only speak Spanish and are attending the devotionals. This is often done by including a song in Spanish or reading the scriptures in Spanish.

5. Practice hospitality, acknowledging the diversity of the team, seeking always to be inclusive of all members.
6. Build community by allowing time for team members to share impactful interactions or experiences of each mission day during the morning sessions or in the evening when possible.
7. Provide support and pastoral care to team members, Guatemalan volunteers, and staff in the case of difficult cases or circumstances.

Pastoral Care for Patients

1. Spend time with patients and listen to their stories as they wait to be seen by team practitioners.
2. Pray with patients and their family before and after treatment when appropriate.

Pastoral Leadership

1. Provide a calming presence as challenges arise.
2. Share God's Love. Most importantly, the Spiritual Leader should let the love of God flow through him or her to the patient and the family, as well as to the staff and volunteers.
3. Role Model. Through words and actions be a positive role model for team members as each volunteer represents the face of Faith In Practice to the Guatemalans.

Surgery Team – Scrub Tech/Scrub Nurse

Position Summary

Besides the surgeon and anesthesia provider, the minimum number of experienced OR personnel are one actively practicing and licensed circulator nurse and one actively practicing and licensed or certified scrub technician or nurse per operating room. The Scrub role can be filled by a Scrub Tech, Surgical Technician, Registered Nurse First Assist, or Scrub Nurse. The volunteer serving this role must be certified/licensed, actively practicing, and have experience assisting with the types of surgeries the team will be performing.

Pre-Trip Duties / Responsibilities

- Review Obras Orientation and Rules document (*only for volunteers serving on an Obras Surgery team) which will be emailed to the team before the trip.
- Faith In Practice provides certain supplies and medications for each team. Please review the Supplies and Medications list, which can be found on the [Volunteer Resource Page](#), before the trip.

Duties / Responsibilities During Trip

Triage Day

- Speak to the surgeon and circulating nurse to familiarize yourself with instrumentation needed for cases.
- Set up each OR, ensuring the necessary supplies are available.
- Check that each room has the necessary equipment in working order.

Surgery Days

- Work with the Circulator to complete the Count Sheet for each surgery.
- Separate clean and dirty instruments at the conclusion of the procedure.
- Remove all blades and needles from instruments before sending them for sterilization.
- Assist with timeout procedure, if necessary.
- Follow principles of sterile technique.
- Assist in the turnover of the room between cases.

Surgery Program – Surgeon

Position Summary

The surgeon role should be filled by an actively working, licensed, and board-certified surgeon. Primary surgeons are required to have a minimum of 5 years' experience in their surgical field specialty. Residents who are licensed and have completed at least 2 years of clinical surgery training are permitted to assist with surgical procedures when directly supervised by the primary surgeon. Surgical specialties within Faith In Practice's scope of care include:

- General
- Gynecology
- Urology
- Orthopedics
- Pediatrics
- Ear, Nose, and Throat
- Plastics

Pre-Trip Duties / Responsibilities

- Review Obras Orientation and Rules document (*only for volunteers serving on an Obras Surgery team) which will be emailed to the team before the trip.
- Faith In Practice provides certain supplies and medications for each team. Please review the Supplies and Medications list, which can be found on the [Volunteer Resource Page](#), before the trip.

Duties / Responsibilities During Trip

Triage Day

- During triage, examine each patient, determining whether surgery is appropriate or not.
- If the patient is a surgical candidate, record the patient's details, the surgery to be performed, and the date and anticipated duration of the surgery.
- Complete the Triage Form which will be attached to the patient's chart.
- Review the hospital's Pain Management Protocols and inform the team Pharmacist what medications and dosages you intend to prescribe for the patients so they can begin to pre-bag these take-home meds.

Surgery Days

- Before beginning and ending a case, the surgeon, anesthesia provider, and circulator must do a timeout.
- After completing a case, the surgeon, with assistance from the Spiritual Leader and an interpreter (if needed) will speak to the patient's family.

- At the end of each case, the surgeon is required to complete all charting in the hospital's Patient Database immediately after surgery so that the complete chart can be transferred with the patient to post-op. The Surgeon should complete the following forms:
 - Record of Operation
 - Post-Op Orders Form
 - Discharge Orders Form
 - Pathology Form

Rounding and Discharge

- Complete rounds every morning and afternoon.
- Speak directly to the head hospital staff about any complicated cases.
- Complete clear and consistent charting, using an interpreter as needed.
 - Document notes about the patient's recovery in Spanish.
 - Document new post-op orders and discharge orders for each patient visit in Spanish.
- For any patients still in the Convalescent Ward at the end of the week transfer care to another physician, with the assistance of the hospital and Faith In Practice staff. Ensure Record of Operation notes, post-op orders, and any recommendations are complete, in order, and legible.

Surgery Team – Team Doctor

Position Summary

The Team Doctor is responsible for the health of team members and will care for any ailments that arise throughout the mission week. The Team Leaders should assign a physician (MD, DO, or NP) to serve as the Team Doctor before the trip.

Pre-Trip Duties / Responsibilities

- Identify yourself to the team at the pre-trip meetings or via email.
- During the pre-trip team meeting, request that all team members provide all health information that could impact them while in Guatemala.
 - If team members are not present at team meetings, request information via email.
- Emphasize the importance of informing you of conditions that may arise so you may respond promptly to any emergency.
- Faith In Practice provides a set formulary of medications for each team. Please review the Supplies and Medications list, which can be found on the [Volunteer Resource Page](#), before the trip.
 - Review the First Aid/Common Ailments Kit and STAT Kit list which are provided on the same document.
- Review the [Illness During Mission Protocol](#) which outlines steps to be taken when a communicable illness may be present among team members or staff during the mission week.

Duties / Responsibilities During Trip

- Request any confidential health information that was not previously given during the pre-trip meetings.
- Pick up the emergency kits (First Aid Kit, STAT Kit, and a defibrillator) at the hotel when the team first arrives in Guatemala, know where the kits are at all times, and leave the equipment at the Antigua hotel before the team's departure out of Guatemala.
- Become familiar with the equipment and make sure that it is working.
- Inform the team of your room number in case of an emergency at night.
- Notify Faith In Practice staff immediately if there is a medical emergency.
 - Faith In Practice provides travel medical insurance for all volunteers through AIG.

There is not a need to take the equipment to the **Obras** during the day as the hospital is equipped to handle a code. However, it IS necessary to take the emergency backpack to **Hilario Galindo** during the day and return it to the hotel at night. Oxygen tank, defibrillator, and stat kit can stay at IRTRA during surgery days.

Surgery Program – Ward Physician

Position Summary

The Ward Physician/Nurse role can be filled by a physician (MD or DO) or nurse practitioner and should ideally be filled by someone who is bilingual and experienced in post-surgical care. If the person filling this role is not bilingual, an interpreter may be assigned. The Ward Physician/Nurse will manage communication between the surgery ward and convalescent wards on matters of post-op care. This position will work in the convalescent wards all week so the person filling this position should not have a role working inside the OR. Please respect the established protocols put into place by the hospital.

Pre-Trip Duties / Responsibilities

- Faith In Practice provides certain supplies and medications for each team. Please review the Supplies and Medications list, which can be found on the [Volunteer Resource Page](#), before the trip.

Duties / Responsibilities During Trip

Triage Day

- Work with the convalescent nurses to check the supplies in the convalescent wards and ensure that each of the wards has a well-stocked cart with the supplies the surgeons will need when rounding, including hand sanitizer, gauze, gloves, bandages, tape, and dressings.
- If the wards are running low on supplies, you may need to restock. Please advise FIP staff.
- Check the equipment, monitors, defibrillator, portable suction, etc. to ensure good working order and that you know how to use the equipment.

Surgery Days

- **Early Morning Rounds:**
 - Check that each surgeon has an interpreter (if needed) for their morning and afternoon rounds and ensure orders are written in Spanish.
 - Ensure that there is a well-stocked cart of supplies in each of the wards before morning rounds begin.
 - Round with the surgeons and ensure that the surgeons speak directly with the hospital directors about any complicated cases.
 - Ensure that orders are understood by the Guatemalan medical staff.
- **Patient Discharge:**



- After the surgeon rounds and gives the patient clearance for discharge, work with the hospital staff to make sure that the patient is not discharged too quickly and a thorough explanation of the post-op instructions is provided to both the patient and a family member.
- Explain to patients the symptoms of when to seek care (fever, etc.) and provide any special instructions that need to be given (i.e. avoid manual labor).
- **General Rounding:**
 - Work collaboratively with the medical staff on the wards to ensure that orders are being complied with appropriately, especially dispensing pain medications, particularly during the immediate post-surgery day.
 - In addition to pain management, the Ward Physician/Nurse can also support the convalescent nurses in the following areas:
 - Reinforce good charting organization and technique.
 - Getting the patients out of bed.
 - Ensuring that at least one nurse is present in each ward at all times.
 - Reinforcing basic best-practice hygiene, post-operative care techniques and wound care.
 - While rounding, the Ward Physician/Nurse should also inquire as to the patient's urinary and bowel functions, determining whether they are being monitored by the Guatemalan medical staff appropriately.
 - Before the surgeons leave the hospital each day, they should hand off their patients directly to the afternoon shift house doctor. The Ward Physician/Nurse is responsible for facilitating this communication.