

## JULY TRIP REPORT

Coral Matus

Dates of Trip: July

Trip Participants – Matus Family (Coral, Ed, Brent, Lindsay, Alex)

Heidi, Coral's parents

### MEDICAL

Carmen and Mayra do a good job with triage and basic history, getting pap forms ready, lab tests done. Organized and kept things flowing well.

EHR: Internet system worked well this time. Only brief period one afternoon that internet was 'down' for about an hour

\*\*My biggest frustration is still finding the patient in the system. Usually require typing in 5 or 6 names to find the patient, and if you don't have them in the right boxes, you have to try again.

--> If a woman has 4 names, it is usually pretty straightforward (but not always). Typically I had to type the first 3 names in the 1st box, the 3rd name in the 2nd box, and the 4th name in the 3rd box. Sometimes, however, I was supposed to type 2 names (2nd and 3rd or 3rd and 4th) in the 2nd box, and sometimes I was supposed to type the 3rd and 4th both in the 3rd box.

--> If a woman has only 3 names, all bets are off. It could be any combination of: type all 3 names in the 1st box, then the 3rd name in the 2nd and 3rd boxes, or the 2nd and 3rd names in the 2nd box and the 3rd name only in the 3rd box, or sometimes it was only the 1st and 2nd names in the 1st box, or sometimes it was only 1 name in the 1st box.

--> if there was a spelling error then it became a bigger challenge! (The paper said Gonzales, for example, but it was entered as Gonzalez)

Many times I had to go out and ask them to help me find the patient in the system. Sometimes it was quick, other times it took awhile.

There were still times where charts were being duplicated. (I saw a woman early in the week, and then again on Friday, and they re entered her because they couldn't find her chart file.)

\*\*? Any way the patient could be entered by DOB as the primary identifier (shouldn't be many duplicates), so would be easier to find

\*\*? Is there any function where we can pull up recently opened charts so they are easier to find?

Heidi (Pharm D student) spent some time looking at classes and strengths of medicines we have and comparing to WHO formulary of recommended medicines. We discussed coming up with a list of preferred meds and trying to stock only those. This way, when people ask if they can donate meds, we would give them the list and stick to that, except in specific cases for specific patients. She will submit her recommended list for discussion.

We visited 4 pharmacies to compare prices on diabetic medications. Except for 1 specific brand of glimeperide, medications are MUCH more expensive when purchased there (metformin costs approximately \$1 per pill here, and I can get a stock bottle of 500 for \$15 in U.S).

We talked to Rudy quite a bit about medicines as well. He reports that it is widely accepted that some of the pharmaceutical suppliers in Guatemala are not reputable and do not produce reliable products. Many people report, especially with medicines for diabetes and hypertension, that the medicines 'don't work', and it seems to be well known and widely accepted that they are not well-regulated.

### EDUCATION

We visited many if he sponsored students, delivered letters from their sponsors, and received return letters. Except for 1 girl who is pregnant, the rest seem to be doing well and are so appreciative and thankful for the opportunities.

We visited the young man in Purushila who lost his arm in an auto accident. The whole story is that he broke his humerus and his ulna and radius, had surgery and had a cast placed, and when they removed the cast 6 weeks later, the arm was 'dead', so has to be amputated?!? Rudy took pictures and measurements and is going to get him hooked up with a plastic surgery group that will be coming to San Cristobal next spring.

#### BIRTHING CENTER

Our team (including the Martinez boy) put in over 300 man hours this week!...and were able to finish all of the drywall, one of the bathrooms (with shower), and 90% of the painting! Ed taught Alex and Lyndsey how to mud and sand drywall, Brent installed tile, sink, and toilet with Ismael, and my mom must have swept the floor 30 times! Ed, with the help of my dad, finished installing the electricity (not without its challenges, including making a hole in one of the cement walls to finish fishing a wire through). By Saturday morning, it looked amazing for the 'inauguration', and a crowd of over 150 men, women, children, and 4 dogs, attended the ceremony under a tent placed in front of the center. Several of the women from the community made food for everyone, and we had 2 large piñatas (a princess for the girls, and Captain America for the boys).

The community was full of pride and good will! Carlos was beaming, Catalina in tears.

--> We met afterward to again discuss plans for functions of the building. Catalina hopes to have specific days she will have the center 'open', but to be available 'every day'. We discussed the need for cooperation and working together as she cannot be 'on duty' 24/7. We discussed costs for the first year, including water, electricity, supplies. I pledged Q1000 per month for the first 6 montes, with plans to reevaluate after that.

The pastor from the Mennonite church, Stephen Gingrich, spoke at the inauguration. He grew up in El Chal (his parents were missionaries there when he was born), and now lives there with his family. He apparently has helped with some things in the birthing center from time to time, and was the one who recommended the awesome roof design! We chatted for awhile and he is very interested in collaborating with us in the future. We talked about heir clinic and how we can work together to improve the health of the region.