

OBGYN physician wanted to join the OBGYN Department

Where: Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan). Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC)

When: As soon as possible

Positions: Locums (minimum 6 months) or Contract (2 years)

Description:

CHCC has 4 labor and delivery rooms, a general OBGYN ward (for postpartum, antepartum, post operations, etc), and an outpatient clinic in the hospital. There are two operating rooms shared by OBGYNs and other surgeons. There is usually midwife coverage on labor and delivery for vaginal deliveries. We have a NICU that is staffed by general pediatricians who do a great job. There is a good amount of high risk obstetrics, often the patients are not stable enough to be transported off island for care so they are managed by us. The department doesn't have a formal relationship with a Maternal Fetal Medicine, so this is a great chance to practice and manage high risk obstetrics.

The outpatient clinic has federal grants to support family planning and breast and cervical cancer screening. When there is adequate staffing, the department will do outreach to the neighboring islands Rota and Tinian (this isn't mandatory, but quite fun and allows you to travel to other islands). There are Radiology services that perform obstetric and gynecologic imaging. The clinic has electronic fetal monitoring capabilities with central monitoring.

Gynecologic surgeries are performed as open abdominal, vaginal or laparoscopic. The equipment for laparoscopy is dated, but available. Often equipment that is common in the US mainland is not available here, like hysteroscopy, but we get creative. There is an above average amount of gynecologic malignancy, so gynecologic care is very much needed.

So in many ways, it's similar to other underserved areas, but then there's also some differences. Most people do not speak American English as their first language. Not everyone is a US citizen, so access to care is difficult. Getting women off island for care is a process and takes many hours for them to reach their destination. It takes time to establish a rapport with the community. But my favorite difference is that there's generally a lot more gratitude and appreciation from the patients than in the US mainland.

The hospital is clean and well kept. It is not uncommon to run out of things, electronic medical records not working, or be understaffed. I think it takes a personality that's flexible, creative, patient and embraces diversity (and dysfunction) to be happy here. It's definitely not for everyone. But for those who do fit, it can feel like you found this secret paradise. If you'd like to explore this position more, please don't hesitate to email me:

Rhonda DiCostanzo
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Nature of Work:

Under the general supervision of the Department Chair of Ob/Gyn, who is accountable to the Director of Medical Affairs and the Chief of Staff. The physician in this position performs a wide variety of work in his/her specialty and capacity as a member of the CHC medical staff as outlined below.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Provides outpatient OB/GYN care (prenatal care including complicated high-risk pregnancies, postpartum care, health care maintenance for women, gynecologic problems, etc.) when not on-call or in OR.
- Provides OB/GYN on-call service including consultation (ER and other services) in rotation with other OB/GYN providers. Provides back-up support and general supervision of midwives in L& D.
- Cares for hospitalized OB/GYN patients at CHC in rotation with other OB/GYN providers. May be asked also to follow own patients if deemed necessary by the Chairperson.
- May provides outer island (Tinian and Rota) OB/GYN service as needed.
- Works 40 hours per week on average plus on-call duty and weekend rounds as assigned in rotation with other OB/GYN providers.
- Participates in hospital standing committees, CME and Quality Assurance activities.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.