

The Nurse Role on DVP

Thanks for being part of the DVP team – without your contributions as Nurses the programme can't run!

When you arrive in Tanzania, we will thoroughly explain and demonstrate everything and give you all of the supplies that you will need. But we wanted to briefly tell you a little bit about your role before you arrive.

Main responsibilities

- **Cross infection control** – you will be responsible for the sterilisation room and ensuring all the instruments are cleaned and cared for appropriately. This will be a very different process to what you are used to in the UK – but it is very effective.
- **Patient support** – there are no fancy dental chairs so you will be around the clinic room looking at ways to support the patients, usually through standing behind the chairs and supporting their heads, or by holding their babies whilst they have their tooth out!
- **Teaching** – we teach the clinical officers OHE and also the process of sterilisation so that they understand how to care for the equipment. This is part of the nurse's role and it's great if you can participate in this, but we know that not everyone wants to teach and this is ok.
- **Dentist Support** – you will not be allocated to one dentist but working with the whole team. One of you will be responsible for making sure they have the supplies / cotton products etc. that they need as well as the instrument supply.
- **Extra eyes and ears** – the dentists are very focused with the training and delivery of treatment so we need you to keep an eye out for what is going on in the clinical area, how the Clinical Officers are communicating, ensuring that all is safe and effective. Often, the Nurses notice things such as whether the Clinical Officers are good with the patients and what improvements can be made. We also need you to keep an eye out for the dentist and help when needed.

Systems

There are 3-4 nurses on each team and a rotation system is set up so that you will have:

- 1 clean nurse
- 1 dirty nurse
- 1 -2 support / supply nurses

By rotating through the roles regularly, you will experience the different areas and all aspects of the DVP.

You are a crucial part of the team and we'd really encourage you, if it's your first visit, to chat to a nurse who has been before. If there is not a returning nurse on your team then we can put you in touch with someone to chat to. Please ask our Visits Team and they will assist you.