

## Yreka Clinic Physician

**Reports To:** Executive Director of Health & Human Services

**Location:** Yreka Clinic

**Salary:** \$100,000 to \$125,000, depending on experience

**Supervises:** Yreka Clinic Contract Medical Providers, Family Nurse Practitioner(s), Medical Records Director, Certified Medical Coder/Administrative Supervisor, Dental Director

**Summary:** The Clinic Physician shall provide advice regarding the development and coordination of clinical policies and procedures and shall act as the preceptor to Physician Assistants and professional supervisor to Family Nurse Practitioners, medical program staff and clinical support staff as delineated in the Karuk Tribal Organizational Chart. Shall participate in the coordination and monitoring of all organizational wide performance improvement activities and shall serve as a member of the Accreditation Continuous Quality Improvement Committee (ACQI). Shall review contracts with other providers and shall offer professional advice to the Executive Director of Health and Human Services when requested. The Clinic Physician shall be responsible for providing primary health care to clinic patients.

### **1) What are your typical job responsibilities?**

My responsibilities at work include taking care of patients and managing the Yreka health clinic. I take care of patients of all ages from birth to 103 (my oldest patient). I take care of their urgent medical problems such as infection or injury, but I also help them manage their chronic problems like diabetes and heart disease.

### **2) How do you *really* spend your day?**

I spend most of my day talking. I talk to my patients, staff, and those other agencies that help my clients such as pharmacies and other doctors. The most important part of talking is being a good listener. I try to listen closely to everyone so I can tell what is wrong.

### **3) How do you organize your day to ensure you get everything done?**

On many days, there is not enough time to do all the work I have, even if I organize well. In medicine there is always an unexpected situation where someone needs extra time or an emergency comes up. Being flexible helps.

### **4) What education/career paths lead you to this position? Were there any life changes that guided your way to this position (ex; closing of the mill, desire not to leave area, family)?**

I studied Cultural Anthropology in college while taking pre-med classes. I always thought of a career in medicine but really wasn't committed until late in my college experience. I liked the idea of helping people, making good money, and being able to live anywhere I like.

### **5) Uppers; what is the thing that you love most about your job?**

The best thing about my job is seeing my patients achieve wellness and my pediatric patients grow healthy and strong.

**6) Downers; what is the thing that you love least about your job?**

The worst thing about my job is the paperwork. It seems like everyone believes they are doing a better job if they create more paperwork for the doctor. In our Country where everyone is lawsuit happy, we have to be careful to write all the things we say and do with our patients.

**7) What inspires, excites, and/or motivates you in your job?**

I like taking care of people more than my administrative duties. I get up in the morning and get to work because I love my patients.

**8) What does your average work week schedule look like (ex; hours worked, meetings, appointments, traveling, etc.)?**

I work between 40 and 50 hours per week and, in general, am in our clinic on a routine Monday through Friday schedule.

**9) How do you relieve stress?**

I am sad to say that food has been my favorite stress reliever – not chocolate, but ice cream!!

**10) Does your job include a lot of traveling? Do you enjoy it?**

I have a requirement to stay current on the ever changing medical knowledge that is out there so every year I try to attend a conference somewhere. There is not much travel in my routine job.

**11) What advice would you give to someone interested in this line of work?**

The most important thing to do to become a physician is to study hard and get good grades. Unfortunately there is a large emphasis on academic performance to get into medical school. To be a good doctor, the most important thing is to love people and genuinely care for them.

**12) What does a typical day in your world look like?**

A typical day in my world includes smiles, jokes, hard work, worry, frustration, and on most days, happiness!!