Claims of Superiority

GOT ETHICS?

- Informed Refusal
- Managing Practice Expenses
- CDA’s 2017 Major Issues & Priorities
Imagine a once per year Health Care Clinic on the scale of a dental convention with a 60 chair Dental Unit, a Vision Center, and a Medical Section that together treated 1,000 patients in one day. And all of these disciplines were in 1 room. How about seeing a patient at 8:00 am that stood in line outside the building since 12:30 am, and left the building at 5:00 pm having received a medical screening, a provided lunch, 2 root canals, and complete composite reconstruction of an upper central and lateral incisor and a filled prescription, all at no cost? Imagine how happy the patients were with their treatment. Imagine the joy we felt in delivering
their care. Welcome to the annual 3 day “Care Harbor / LA Free Clinic” in Los Angeles.

The room was awash with a rainbow of colored gowns: Blue for dentists, Pink for hygiene, Green for assistants, and Orange for translators. The dental section was a buzz of activity with a hygiene unit, a restorative unit, and the oral surgery unit.

You needed to see it to believe it! If an opinion was needed for a questionable oral lesion, there were service volunteers to walk the patients to the dermatology section for an opinion. Digital X-rays were offered in the X-ray section, escorted by a service volunteer. How about a dental assistant? I worked with several dental assistant students at all times. They were 80 dental assistant student volunteers from different schools. They were only a short time in their training program, but they learned quickly and were excellent to work with!

I attended the room setup on Thursday and was surprised at the small group of gifted people who set up the entire clinic that treated so many patients. They installed air, water, and power to 60 dental units and dental chairs as well as the other medical sections for this once a year event. The room was a miracle of bright minds and a strong commitment to help others.

I highly recommend this event to my colleagues as an inspiring life experience. I hope to see you next year.

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