

The Chinatown Clinic

A Project of Drexel University
College of Medicine

Chinatown Clinic at Holy Redeemer Church



Mission

- ***The mission of the Chinatown Clinic, in partnership with the community, and within the limits of available resources, is to provide caring, nonjudgmental, interdisciplinary healthcare to the medically underserved, regardless of ability to pay.***
- ***The clinic also strives to create a respectful environment in which students, healthcare professionals, patients, and community members can learn ways to work together to address community factors, especially language/cultural barriers, that affect health and access to health care.***

The Chinatown Clinic

- Structure of the clinic is “created” each Wednesday from 5 p.m. until closing, as we transform and equip a small church building to serve 30-50 patients each session.
- Building is located on the grounds of Holy Redeemer Chinese Catholic Church at 10th and Vine Streets.
- Pastor provides rent-free space and moral support.
- Staffing provided entirely by volunteers:
 - Licensed health care professionals
 - Students
 - People from the communities served.

All students and other unlicensed volunteers serve as agents of the Medical Director who is responsible for all clinic services.

Educational Mission with a vulnerable population

- Primary mission: Direct care for patients who have a very difficult time finding access to healthcare
- Educational mission: How to work together to address community factors, especially language/cultural barriers, that affect health and access to health care.

Not a place to practice procedures

Not a place to conduct research unless the project and the student or researcher contribute to direct, ongoing care of current clinic patients

Services offered by the Chinatown Clinic

- Management of certain chronic conditions:
 - Diabetes
 - Other chronic diseases within scope of clinic resources
- Medical evaluation of patients with acute, serious conditions
- Partnership with Community Legal Services for the purpose of obtaining Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA) for patients who are diagnosed with acute conditions that would be disabling or life-threatening if left untreated
- Immunizations
- Women's Health Project
- Dental education, supplies, and periodic screenings

New patients

are offered a History & Physical, formulation of a medical problem list, and treatment plan through follow-up at clinic or referral, as determined by a licensed primary care provider.

- Follow-up at clinic for conditions within the scope of clinic services **OR**
- Referral as appropriate for all other cases: Emergency Room, City Health District clinics, ob/gyn, cardiac care, vision, dental, legal or social services, etc.

Language and Interpretation Services

- During clinic hours, volunteer interpreters are available to assist with interpreting Indonesian and Chinese.
- Other languages are sometimes available through students.
- Some new and established patients bring their own translators for languages such as Cambodian, Vietnamese, and Spanish.

Collaborative relationships

In addition to support from Drexel University College of Medicine and Holy Redeemer Chinese Catholic Church, collaborative relationships include:

- Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
- Hahnemann University Hospital (Tenet)
- Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Professions
- City of Philadelphia Department of Health
- University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine
- Bridging the Gaps, a consortium of medical & other health professional schools

The future?

- The future of the Chinatown Clinic depends first and foremost on the time and talent of volunteers.
- Clinic leaders look for ways to build alliances with others who share a similar mission or dedication to the unique populations served by the clinic.
- The problems faced by our patients is one illustration of the lack of a medical system based on caring for patients, especially the vulnerable