Working in Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidad and Tobago is an island country in the southern Caribbean, just off the coast of Venezuela. It was granted independence in 1962 and is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. The population is 1.1 million, the life expectancy of men, on the average, is 66 years and that of women is 71 years. Infant mortality is 24 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Medical care

Medical care is divided between these specialized hospitals, regional hospitals and local outpatient clinics. Public medical care is free of charge for both citizens and foreigners. During the past years, a private medical care network has increasingly developed and now covers about 50% of the medical services due to the lower care quality provided in the public institutions. Above all, the public institutions lack the required infrastructure.

Trinidad and Tobago has its own medical university which is associated with the University of the West Indies.

The three specialized hospitals also function as teaching hospitals for students. To receive certification as a physician specialist, it is usually necessary to work abroad (mostly England or USA) for a certain length of time (at least three years) as a resident physician.

Organization

The General Hospital of Port of Spain has approximately 700 beds.

In addition to departments for gynecology, internal medicine, dermatology, there are departments for neurosurgery, thoracic, general, and plastic surgery and orthopedics. In analogy to the Anglo-American system, both orthopedics and trauma patients are admitted to the orthopedics department. Depending upon their size, the individual departments are divided into one to four units. A unit is overseen by a consultant devoted to their problems always renewed my devotion to them and for sharing their problems always renewed my devotion to them.

In contrast to the lack of options, I could not have wished for more education and workshops. Having access to these courses has significantly increased my knowledge and skills.

In summary, I can say that it is a very intensive year for me, including from case to case depressing situations. It is for instance, when patients could have attended a clearly better quality of life or function, but owing to the lack of options, I could not offer them.

The numerous positive responses and the gratitude shown by the patients for the time one has devoted to them and for sharing their problems always renewed my strength and reinforced the rightness of my decision to spend this year in Trinidad.

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www.gov.tt The official website for the public sector of the republic of Trinidad and Tobago in English.
www.undp.org/ The United Nations Development Programme, the UN's global development networks.
www.visittnt.com/ The official tourist website of Trinidad and Tobago in English, travel & transport and accommodation.
www.goinginternational.org Medicine & health The international course and career guide