

Dr Roger Washington, MD
Externship for International Medical Graduates

Welcome International Medical Graduates (IMGs). I host a hands-on clinical experience for IMGs who wish to increase their understanding of the US healthcare system and obtain a letter of recommendation (LOR) that will increase their chances of being selected for an interview to a US medical residency. This is not an observership where IMGs are given the opportunity only to shadow the attending or other healthcare providers. This is much more useful. This is a four-week, hands-on clinical experience.

My name is Roger Washington MD, FAAFP. I am the program's Director, a Board Certified Family Physician, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. I completed my medical training at Stanford Medical School. I am a former Associate Professor of the San Jose Family Practice Residency Program and served twice as the Chairman of the Department of Family Practice at the Good Samaritan Hospital in San Jose, California. I have received numerous awards recognizing my clinical competency including San Jose Magazines Top Doc Award and the Patient's Choice Award. The clinical setting is a private practice in an urban area consisting of clients that are highly functioning, educated adults and their families.

In this experience, IMG will be the first to consult with the patient -performing an interview and presenting their assessment and plan to the attending. The attending will confirm the findings. The IMG will then have the opportunity to assist in coordinating the appropriate tests, prescriptions, patient counseling, and follow-up care. Externs will be asked to give a short presentation weekly. Additionally, they will receive didactics on US healthcare practices including such topics as managed care, referral patterns, prior

authorizations, and tier formularies. I will evaluate each participant for their grasp of the medical sciences; their ability to present their clinical findings and formulate an assessment and plan; their ability to communicate with patients and other members of the healthcare team; their ability to form a provider-patient relationship; their ability to communicate; their ability to adapt to the realities of functioning within the peculiar constraints of managed-care, and of course, their clinical judgment. They will receive a LOR describing their level of competency.

As a result of misinformation about the so-called California Letter, many IMGs have misconceptions about whether learning experiences such as externships are legal in California. The California Letter or Postgraduate Training Authorization Letter (PTAL) pertains to residency training in California, not Externships in a private practice such as the one I offer. Many of the IMGs who have participated in this Externship have matched.