

“From Reflection to Action: Moving Voluntourism to the Ethical Ideal”

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Program Assessment Worksheet

Step 1: Identify program elements within domains of evaluation.

- I. Program Structure (including effects on hosts and sponsors)
 - Community engagement and integration
 - Resources to support program
 - Sustainability and follow-up
- II. Effects on Individual Patients and Community
 - Appropriate supervision of learners
 - Learner training
 - Culturally appropriate care
- III. Effects on Learners
 - Safety
 - Effective learning environment
 - Appropriate opportunities to practice

Step 2: Assess program elements in each domain according to the ethical principles.

1. What are the potential harms and benefits that accrue to sponsors, hosts, participants, patients and communities? How important, lasting and program-dependent are the benefits? How serious are the potential harms and how likely are they to happen? What risk reduction strategies are in place?
2. Does community consultation and involvement ensure that the community is able to accept or refuse program elements or the program entirely? Do mechanisms for community consultation and involvement ensure that community needs, priorities and concerns are addressed?
3. Are learners and participants prepared to provide culturally appropriate care? How do elements of the program support recognition of local values, awareness of value differences and respect for the host community and patients?
4. Are participants asked to violate their professional or personal integrity by, e.g., practicing beyond their scope of practice or ability or providing care that is not the standard of care in their home environments? How are these concerns addressed programatically?

Step 3: Assess for deal-breakers.

- ☐ Do ANY of the program elements represent a substantial risk of serious harm to the patients, the host community or learners?
- ☐ Is the program currently structured in such a way that it can substantially meet learner and community goals?

Final Assessment:

Taken altogether, the program overall is ethically:

- ☐ Acceptable
- ☐ Unacceptable

Program Strengths:

Program Weaknesses:

Recommendations to program leadership: