

Specialty Care Free Clinic

1409 Emil St., Suite 120 • Madison, WI 53713
Clinic Open: Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday
Phone: (608) 827-2308

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Mission

Medical volunteers provide specialty care to uninsured, low-income patients referred by clinicians in south-central Wisconsin. Our clinic does not duplicate basic health care services that are provided by other free primary care clinics, but fills a critical gap for those patients who have complex medical conditions or illnesses that require the services of a physician specialist. Our goal is to offer uninsured patients access to specialty care that is often only available to those with insurance.

History

Local physicians Ernie Pellegrino, Paul Simenstad, and Walter Sundstrom founded the clinic in 2001.

Patients

The patients we serve must be uninsured and referred by a primary care provider to be eligible for free specialty care at our clinic. For many of our patients, it is the first time they have seen a specialist. More than 75% of our patients are Spanish-speaking and use the services of our interpreters.

Volunteers

Specialty Care Free Clinic maintains a volunteer team of more than 50 physicians and 60 others, including physician assistants, nurse practitioners, physical therapists, nurses, patient care assistants, and interpreters. Our volunteer clinicians represent 22 medical specialties, including cardiology, ophthalmology, psychiatry, gynecology, rheumatology, orthopedics, neurology, pulmonology, urology, dermatology, and physical therapy.

Community Collaborators

Patients are referred to our clinic by more than 20 primary care organizations in south-central Wisconsin. Our clinic works closely with referring clinicians to advance the care of each patient. Approximately 25% of our patients require diagnostic medical testing, such as medical imaging, lab work, and pathology, which are provided in-kind by local groups. In some cases, a patient may require more complex care, including surgery. Specialty Care Free Clinic staff work with community care programs at local healthcare organizations to facilitate access to this care.

Budget

Our 2024 operating budget is projected at \$403,268. The clinic is funded entirely through contributions from foundations, local businesses, and individuals. Donations are appreciated and accepted via check, PayPal, or Venmo. (Scan QR code at top.)

2023 Accomplishments

Provided 1,635 free patient care visits, a 17% increase over 2022.

Implemented a remote interpreter service to improve communication accuracy between patients, providers, and staff and hired an additional part-time Spanish interpreter.

Served patients who spoke more than 20 different languages.

Age-range parameters expanded to provide care for patients ages 14 -18 in some specialties.

Bilingual telehealth counseling services made available to patients at no charge.

Partnership with Share the Health Free Gynecology Clinic assured availability of services for prevention and early treatment of gynecological cancers.

Bladder scanner and cystoscopy equipment purchased to expand in-clinic diagnostic urology services.

Better chronic condition management reduced costly patient trips to the emergency room and avoided more serious illnesses.

Physicians diagnosed a number of life-threatening illnesses, including various cancers, cardiac events, and renal failure.