

RAM USA – Los Angeles Dental Expedition

(A joint project with RAM USA, Harbor, Los Angeles, San Fernando, San Gabriel and Western Los Angeles Dental Societies)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is RAM USA?

RAM USA is an acronym for Remote Area Medical a 501(c)(3) volunteer organization where professional and lay people donate their time and even pay their own way to participate and provide medical, dental and vision care to the uninsured and underinsured in a community. To find out more about RAM, access their web site at hyperlink "<http://www.ramusa.org>". You are encouraged to view the 60 Minutes segment on their home page to see what the "expedition" is all about.

When and where is the Los Angeles Expedition?

The Los Angeles event (expedition) will be held at The Forum, 3900 Manchester Blvd, Inglewood (corner of Manchester and Prairie) from Tuesday, August 11 through Tuesday, August 18, 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. daily.

Will there be food, parking and housing for volunteers?

Food will be provided free to the volunteers at the event. Reserved parking for volunteers will be available in the Forum parking lot. Patients will park at Hollywood Park adjacent to the Forum. Volunteers requiring overnight accommodations should access the RAM USA Los Angeles website www.ramclinic.info and click on the housing button.

What kind of dental treatment will be provided?

Treatment will depend on needs of the patients as identified by a triage team, but will primarily include cleanings, simple filings, extractions, perhaps limited denture repair, and emergency care.

How can I volunteer?

To volunteer, you must register. The online registration form can be found at www.losangelesdentalsociety.com – on the home page. Print out the form, complete it and fax to Los Angeles Dental Society at 213-380-7672. If you are licensed by the Dental Board of California, please provide a copy of a current license along with your application.

Can my staff participate?

Yes, dental auxiliaries and other individuals can participate. However, everyone who participates must understand that they are considered a volunteer and not a paid staff person. A dentist cannot insist that their auxiliaries participate.

What about liability insurance?

Dentists and hygienists should check with their liability carrier to ensure that their policy covers participation at this event. TDIC has indicated that the policy follows the dentist wherever he/she practices as the many other insurers do. Licensed dentists who will need a policy to volunteer at this event can apply for a Volunteer Policy by contacting TDIC Insurance Solutions staff at 800.733.0633. The Dentists' Insurance Company has a policy available for uninsured licensed hygienists to be covered for the event. If they are interested contact TDIC Insurance Solutions to complete the one page application. USC students participating with the Mobile Van will be covered by USC insurance.

Will instruments and supplies be provided or do I need to supply my own?

Wherever possible please provide your own diagnostic equipment as they are only available in limited quantity. If you have a favorite instrument, please bring it with you. Basic supplies will be available (gloves, hand sanitizer, etc.). Dental instruments will be provided by RAM – but if you can supply your own, that would be welcomed. Efforts will be made to identify personal instruments in order that they not be mixed in with RAM supplied instruments.

What about the regulatory compliance issues such as medical waste, hazardous waste, etc?

Details relating to compliance issues has been taken care of by the organizers.

Will there be an orientation prior to seeing patients?

Orientations will be scheduled and all volunteers are encouraged to attend at least one meeting. These orientations will occur at the Forum prior to each shift so it is very important that volunteers arrive on time for their shift(s).

Where can I get more information?

Visit the RAM USA Los Angeles Expedition web site at www.ramclinic.info or contact one of the following dental societies:

Harbor Dental Society	(562) 595-6303
Los Angeles Dental Society	(213) 380-7669
San Fernando Valley Dental Society	(818) 884-7395
San Gabriel Valley Dental Society	(626) 285-1174
Western Los Angeles Dental Society	(310) 349-2199