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Medical professionals from Children's Hospital head to Haiti

By Kristin Bender
Oakland Tribune
 Posted: 05/27/2010 11:18:27 AM PDT
 Updated: 05/27/2010 11:34:20 AM PDT

OAKLAND — Armed with 35 boxes of medical supplies, 14 medical care professionals from Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland head to Haiti today to work in a hospital where nearly half the patients are children.

The group is leaving tonight from San Francisco International Airport and will be in Port au Prince for 10 days, hospital officials said.

A specialized pediatric surgery team, including a plastic surgeon, anesthesiologist, nurses and a respiratory therapist are going on the trip. Ten of the 14 medical volunteers will work at Adventist Hospital where the current patient population is almost 50 percent children.

The team will work on both pediatric and adult plastic and reconstructive surgery. The rest of the team will be stationed at the University Hospital of Haiti, where they will be assisting in both basic pediatric and pediatric intensive care.

Children's Hospital pediatric doctor and stateside team coordinator, Arup Roy-Burman said the medical needs in Haiti have evolved since the January, 7.0 magnitude earthquake that killed 230,000 and injured some 300,000 more.

"Major acute general trauma and orthopedic injuries have been replaced by the aftermath of the initial injuries, including poorly healed and infected wounds. In addition, there has been a rise (in) communicable diseases, such as diphtheria," he said.

Global Healing, a Bay Area-based nonprofit organization

that brings modern medicine to the developing world, is funding the trip. Volunteers will be chronicling their time in Haiti at www.childrenshospitaloakland.org.

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