

Community Dental Partners

Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) is the only clinic in Central Oregon that cares exclusively for the uninsured without charge. None of our patients are eligible for Affordable Care Act (ACA) programs. They need healthcare but do not have the funds to pay for medical services out-of-pocket. VIM is here to help cover that gap, serving our patients with primary care, specialty referrals, prescription medications, and mental health services.

One of the greatest unmet needs of VIM patients is access to dental care. VIM has a robust network of medical specialists throughout the community who volunteer their time and expertise. We are seeking to build these same vital relationships and networks with the professional dental community in Central Oregon.

Because VIM does not currently have a dedicated dental clinic at its site, we rely on dental professionals to open their practice doors to our patients, in the same way that our pro bono medical partners do. By teaming up and assembling a pro bono dental provider network, we aim to better meet the preventative and acute treatment needs of VIM patients.

When you partner with VIM, you will not only change the life of one individual, your actions will influence the life of a family, create job security, and in turn establish a more thriving and cohesive community. The gratitude expressed by our patients is profound. They know what a gift it is to have access to healthcare, and their appreciation is one of the things that fuels our volunteers and staff on a daily basis.

We hope you will join us in empowering and enriching the lives of the underserved in Central Oregon. We believe in the health of our community!

Visit www.vim-cascades.org to learn more.

Our mission is simple,

we want to improve the health and wellness of the medically uninsured or critically underserved through the engagement of professionals, community partners, and dedicated volunteers.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN VIM AS A COMMUNITY PARTNER, CONTACT OUR
REFERRAL COORDINATOR
(541) 585-9018

What can I expect of a referred patient?

If we call you to request care for a patient, you can be assured that:

- We have completed a financial screening to determine that the patient is within 300% of the Federal Poverty level guidelines and that they are uninsured.
- You will receive information on their general chief complaint and condition (swelling, broken tooth, etc.) from a care coordinator.
- We will honor the number of visits and the services you are willing to offer in our agreement.
- We offer interpreting services for our Spanish-speaking patients.
- We offer translation services for forms that patients may need in Spanish.
- The patient is under the care of VIM for all primary healthcare needs and has access to necessary medications.

What services does VIM request?

We value your time and skill sets, and we understand that you run a practice that already serves diverse segments of the Central Oregon community. Therefore, **our request is a donation of one to three 60-90 minute appointments per month with a VIM patient.** Typical needs include:

- Limited exams
- X-rays/imaging
- Periodontal probing
- Endodontic treatments
- Simple and surgical extractions
- Anterior and posterior direct resin or amalgam restorations.
- 60 minutes of prophy or periodontal therapy with varnish.
- Patients may be given a printed prescription for any antibiotic, swelling, or pain management needs, and they may take this either to a pharmacy of their choice or to the VIM charitable pharmacy. VIM's formulary includes medications typically needed for dental patients.
- If VIM patients elect to pursue indirect restorative treatments, those procedures can be charged for by your office; we ask that you might consider providing a discount on these treatments.

What about Liability?

VIM's patients agree to be seen and treated under the Oregon Liability Waiver for pro-bono, no cost care (ORS 676.340). This limits the liability of Oregon-licensed physicians, physician assistants, dentists, nurse practitioners, dental hygienists, and certain other health professionals for injury, death, or other loss that may arise from services they provide without compensations, except in cases of gross negligence. As a VIM community partner, we ask that you register with the state for the liability waiver and have your pro-bono patients fill out a consent form which can be provided to you through VIM.

Continuing Education Benefits for Dentists

The State of Oregon recognizes volunteerism/pro-bono work as a qualifying activity for up to 6.0 CE credits annually.