

ELECTIVE REPORT

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Elective Objectives

1. To describe and understand the patterns of illness amongst the paediatric population in the Philippines and how this compares to other developing countries and the UK.
 2. To describe and understand how healthcare is delivered in the Philippines and how this compares to other developing countries and the UK.
 3. How does the hospital and Govt. try to improve healthcare in the Philippines.
 4. Personal/professional development goals -
To improve my paediatric experience and knowledge and help decide if it is the career for me (the same for anaesthetics also). Practice clinical skills in paediatrics and anaesthetics and reflect on how I can improve further with daily summaries.
1. The top 5 leading causes of morbidity in 2013 were UTIs, URTIs, wounds and injuries, cardiovascular diseases and pneumonia. The top 5 causes of mortality in 2013 were pneumonia, cardiovascular diseases, malignancy/cancer, pulmonary TB and decubitus ulcers. Of note is the presence of pulmonary TB

in the top 5 which isn't the case in the UK and is similar to other countries and S and SE Asia. Wounds and injuries also are high up on the morbidity list due to the lower standards in health and safety and being generally less developed.

2. There are limited Govt/State run healthcare facilities which are overcrowded and accept patients from a wide geographical distribution (ie all of Western Visayas and Culion Island in the case of Western Visayas Medical Centre located in the south of the island). There were also private institutions. Medical insurance is expensive even for doctors, leading to a lot of patients that need to be admitted, but can't due to costs, going home at the detriment to their health.
3. The hospital and govt tried to improve healthcare with national initiatives such as vaccinations and providing surfactant for free to premature babies who need it. Locally the staff will waive or fees for equipment when it's the fault of the clinician to minimize the burden on poor patients. Rural outreach programmes and nutrition education aims to prevent morbidity before it happens.
4. I did a couple of intubations and 5 attempted spinal anaesthetics. In paediatrics I didn't get to do paediatric procedures but got to examine patients with signs and discuss management of cases such as haemorrhagic dengue fever and diabetic keto acidosis. I know now I want to do paediatric training.