

Community description:

Walsh fits the definition of frontier, and some might even say there are more cows than people! The town of Walsh is largely agricultural with a dense population of farmers and ranchers. All the open space allows for unobstructed views of Colorado's colorful sunrises and sunsets while the clear night sky is ideal for star gazers. Deer, antelope, jack rabbits, coyotes, and fox all roam the open plains.

The Walsh Community believes family comes first. A brand-new school is currently being built with the help from a Best Grant. Much of the community activity revolves around building the school system. Partially due to small class sizes, Walsh School District consistently preforms well on standardized testing. Students from the school can be found doing service and leadership projects around town when not actively participating in sports

Walsh is full of hearty people who take pride in this community. When the local grocery store closed, community members knew something needed to happen. So, people bought shares in the grocery store, and it is now run by a board of directors comprised of stakeholders. This unique story was even written about by People Magazine and published in 2009.

Practice Information:

The Walsh Medical Clinic is owned and operated by the Walsh Hospital District. The Walsh Hospital District is made up of Walsh Healthcare Center, Maplewood Homes, Walsh Medical Clinic, and Walsh Ambulance Service. Walsh Healthcare is a long-term care facility servicing our aging population with graceful and personal care. Maplewood Homes is an assisted living where many in the community reside and maintain independence. The Ambulance Service is comprised of volunteers, but services a large portion of Baca County.

The Walsh Medical Clinic currently employs nine people in addition to the medical director. Most of the employees in the clinic wear many hats and are trained in many aspects of the clinic. Current employees include a clinic manager, medical biller, receptionist and three medical assistants who assist with procedures and work in the lab, two full time and one part time nurse practitioners and the medical director. In the clinic, we have a moderate Complexity CLIA lab. This certification allows us to perform several tests in house, including microscopic examinations of inspections. More complex tests are completed through Quest.

Acute hospital level care is provided in neighboring towns like Johnson (30 minutes away) and Springfield (20 minutes away). Stanton County Hospital in Johnson provides specialty clinics as well as outpatient laboratory and imaging services to a large portion of Southwest Kansas and Southeast Colorado. Southeast Colorado Hospital in Springfield offers emergency care, imaging, and laboratory services. There are also a handful of specialists who come to Springfield on a regular basis. The patients at Walsh Medical Clinic utilize both hospitals based on their individual preferences.

Our medical director, Dr. Bill Troup, holds 50 years of experience and knowledge to share with anyone willing to learn. His main practice is in Johnson Kansas, but he visits Walsh at least once a month and offers phone consults for current staff 24/7. He loves working with nurse practitioners to create a full-service team. The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health published a document to honor

community leaders in which Dr. Bill was featured. A copy of the article can be found here: <https://en.calameo.com/read/004572339a450caad3838>

There are currently two full time nurse practitioners. Kim Tate has been in practice for 40 years in Walsh. Although she is preparing to take a step back from full-time practice, she has an abundance of knowledge and experience that she is ready to share. Mary Shy has been with the Walsh Medical Clinic for two years and has been in practice for more than 25 years. Jenna Homsher has been with the Medical Clinic for eight years and will be leaving the clinic for personal reasons, which prompts the opening. Currently, the nurse practitioners each work 4 days per week. The schedule is negotiable based on preferences of the new hire.

Opportunity Description-

The primary responsibility of a nurse practitioner at the Walsh Medical Clinic is to serve as the primary medical provider in the rural health clinic under the supervision and guidance of the physician. This includes well care of adults and children as well as management of chronic conditions and treatment of acute illnesses. Some minor emergency care may be necessary.

- Licensure in the State of Colorado is necessary. Licensure in the State of Kansas is preferred
- Certification as a Nurse Practitioner is required. Physician Assistant may be considered for the right candidate.
- New graduates will be considered. Experience as an RN, EMT or other Medical Professional is preferred.
- BLS and ACLS required. Other certifications such as PALS, NRP, or TNCC are not required but are preferred.
- Must be able to read and write fluently in English. Fluency in Spanish is helpful in the community but not required.

Working at the Walsh Medical Clinic is both challenging and rewarding. Working in this frontier community puts healthcare professionals at the forefront of all medical challenges. While there is specialty care available, much of the responsibility of maintaining health falls on the shoulders of the provider. We are looking for someone who is driven by working together with the Nurse Practitioners, Medical Director, and the rest of our staff to serve our community.

On average, the nurse practitioner is responsible for 10-15 patients per day and consist of a combination of chronic care follow ups, wellness checks for adults and children, and walk-ins.

As a Rural Health Clinic, we have a system in place to allow patients to contact providers after-hours. The NP may take emergency calls after hours and during weekends. The call will be triaged and evaluated by the NP. Minor emergency patients may be seen in the clinic or treated over the phone. More complex cases or patients with a serious illness or injury may be sent to the hospital for further evaluation. In addition, Walsh Medical Clinic is closely affiliated with a long-term care and assisted living facility and will provide services to the population. In certain situations, the NP may also be asked to complete home visits.

An important piece of working at the Walsh Medical Clinic is involvement in community education and health promotion. Nurse Practitioners currently employed serve on a health committee at the school and are actively involved in the local Health Fairs. Staff development is a component of the position. This includes attending and participating in various in-service educational classes.