



Jan Swasthya Sahyog

## HEAL Initiative Fellow Role Description

**Position Title:** Primary Care HEAL Fellow

**Organization:** [Jan Swasthya Sahyog \(JSS\), India](#)

Jan Swasthya Sahyog (JSS) was founded in the year 1996 by a group of like-minded health professionals during their post-graduate studies at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Dehli. They strongly believe in developing a low-cost and effective health program that provides both preventive and curative services in the tribal and rural areas of Bilaspur and surrounding areas of Chhattisgarh in central India. One of their goals is to create a system of primary health care which builds on a continuing and mutually enriching dialogue with the people and derives its strength and long term sustenance from this.

Since 2015 JSS has been fortunate to have partnered with HEAL to support its work among marginalized populations in rural, central India. The experience has been a positive one with fellows who have bonded well with staff and colleagues, centered the residency education activities, supported patient care, and helped with protocols, research, and advocacy. As the partnership has matured, and especially in response to fellow feedback, we have jointly drafted these guidelines to provide structure and clarity within what will likely remain a fair bit of chaos amidst the ongoing storm that JSS faces.

**Position Description:** There is a FM residency at JSS started in 2015 focused on creating generalist physicians skilled at a wide range of clinical competencies as well as understanding poverty, inequality and the root causes of suffering. The main responsibilities expected of all HEAL fellows are as follows: 1) resident education, maintaining the seminar and case schedule, coordinating and developing talks, workshops, etc, and clinical teaching of the residents on the wards, ER or OPD, tele-clinic and consult help, and on night home call, along with assisting with bed assignment.

A quality improvement, research or advocacy activity is encouraged but not required. Additional activities and work can be added or adjusted on a case by case basis depending on fellow skill, interest, language abilities, etc. As the major thrust of the work is in resident education, Hindi ability is not required. Fellows have a phenomenal chance to help lead the development of our residents into talented, compassionate doctors who will become leaders in rural health through their teaching and friendship.



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### *Scope of work*

JSS is a clinically intense site with a high volume, high acuity, medically complicated patient population in all its settings. The philosophy of the institution is one of generalism and de-specialization with all the core faculty practicing broadly irrespective of formal training in order to support access and high-quality care for our patients. We have extended this goal to our residency training as well. We encourage fellows to use their full potential to do the same, in a graduated, supportive fashion. The nature of JSS is that all of us, including fellows, engage with care one doesn't immediately know (i.e. yet to learn) but always with the support of our entire team. There is always back-up for any patient care issue someone is unsure with, but we know, and hope, that the edges of those limits can expand with time and training.

### *Working hours, rotation dates, leaves*

JSS operates on a Monday-Saturday schedule and alternates between OPD and non-OPD days. Rounds start at 8:30-9:00AM negotiated with the individual resident, and the day typically ends by 8:00PM depending on the volume and who the person on call is (to which the admissions requiring work ups are presented to). On non-OPD days work generally ends around 1:00PM after grand rounds leaving the afternoons leaving free time for self-study, preparing educational activities, or working on QI, research or advocacy activities.

We are now working hard to keep all Sundays off for fellows, barring exceptional circumstances where we might seek a volunteer. There is always a JSS faculty available as your backup at night for any questions, procedure help, etc. As the call is generally light, there is no post-call period. On the rare brutal night without sleep, simply inform and we will adjust the morning duties. We expect fellows to arrive at the beginning of rotation dates specified by HEAL and leave accordingly as well. Departures from these dates will be counted as leave unless discussed and approved in advance by JSS. HEAL has specified two weeks of leave per six month rotation, to be prorated for shorter rotations if that situation arises. Leaves are approved with the JSS HEAL coordinator and are generally flexible but may need to be timed with staffing.

**Job Requirements:** By 1 July 2020 applicants must have completed residency training at a US-based residency program. Preferences will be given to those who trained in Family Medicine, Med-Peds, or Internal Medicine. Fellows need to be very adaptive and able to deal with challenging, ever-evolving situations. Their day to day work may need to change on short-notice to respond to the needs and difficult circumstances of our team's work (and resource constraints).



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### **HEAL Initiative**

The HEAL Initiative aims to train and support health providers to thrive in hard places by fostering a community of front line health professionals dedicated to serving the underserved. HEAL is an immersive two-year fellowship dedicated to health equity and catalyzing life experience serving the underserved.

### **Further Reading**

Further reading JSS is a different place - a small, rural hospital that does tertiary care, in a forgotten corner of the world full of neglected people and yet at the center of so much. It expects a lot from people and in return it gives that much back. We are unique in our intersection between getting our hands dirty everyday and also participating in the larger dialogues that shape the structures of inequity. We welcome fellows to join our hard but fulfilling path.

<http://www.jssbilaspur.org/family-medicine-residency/>

<http://www.cambridgeday.com/2015/05/21/with-internets-help-indian-clinic-patients-have-a-team>

[-of-health-alliance-specialists/](#)

<https://tompietrasik.photoshelter.com/gallery/DOCTORS-HOSPITAL-CARE-IN-RURAL-INDIA/G00001.79CInECdA>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2015/11/29/449117695/treating-the-poor-in-india-m>

[ade-him-a-better-cancer-doc-in-the-u-s](#)

<https://caravanmagazine.in/perspectives/incorrect-dosage-india-blinkered-preference-specialistdoctors>

<https://www.thoughtworks.com/insights/blog/how-i-began-my-new-year>

<http://infochangeindia.org/agenda-issues/malnutrition/9245-health-through-the-hunger-lens>