

St. Luke's Medical Center Extension Clinic

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Day 1 July 16, 2007 Monday

- 4:30am *OUTSIDE THE BUILDING. Arrived at SLEC. Fell in line and got "priority" nos. 32 and 33 (for Amber and I). In this stage, there is no such thing as priority or special treatment for senior citizens or applicants with infants/children. Everyone is on equal footing. Stores, photo center, photocopier station and fast-food nearby were already open. Some guys will tell you that SLEC will not accept visa photos with earrings, and then offer you to have a new visa photo taken at their station. Actually, in our visa photos, both Amber and I wear small stud earrings, and SLEC accepted it. Thanks God I did not listen to the guys offering their services. Please note also, that the façade of the building has no SLEC marking on it, but "1177 J. Bacobo St." on the right part of the building.*
- 5:00am *GROUND FLOOR ENTRANCE. Verification of the US Embassy Appointment Packet by the SLEC. Guards started to let people in. Presented the Original copy of the Appointment Letter (and a copy) and passport. Guard stamped the original letter with "SLEC" and returned it. Hand stamped with SLEC's logo. Then, two 4-page Patient Data Sheet (PDS) were given for me and Amber. Note: Do not forget to prepare the same number of photocopies with the number of visa applicants going for medical exam. So if you have a child on K-2 or K-4, prepare two copies. SLMCEC will attach a copy to the applicant's medical sheet. While waiting for the Reception Area to be opened, I filled out the PDS given to me and my child. Don't worry; there is enough space and writing table inside the building, near the Reception Area. No sweat, the info needed in the sheet is very elementary like petitioner's address, phone number, intended POE (point of entry). Before I forget, you have to write the nearest relative (aside from your husband or fiancé) living in the US with her/his address and phone number. So guys, better ask your relatives now (if you have). In my case, I did not list any, but only my husband. I have relatives there but I do not know their addresses and phone numbers. I assume, it is fine. Our PDS was accepted. Note: Don't forget to bring liquid eraser or any eraser of some sort.*
- 6:00am *GROUND FLOOR NEAR ENTRANCE. Submission of accomplished PDS form at the Reception Area where digital picture-taking and encoding of data are done. At this point, you were called according to the "priority" number given to us by the Guard. There were about four lady receptionists, so this stage was quite fast. The receptionist checked and verified the accuracy of the info. At this point, you need to give one (1) visa photo. No need to paste it to the PDS. The receptionist will staple it herself. If everything is indeed filled out and correct, then proceed to the photo station. Then waited outside for name to be called again.*
- 7:00am *5th FLOOR. Payment at the Cashier in Philippine Currency. Not a busy area at all. At this point, the Priority number is no longer in use. Since the building has an elevator, no problem at all. I paid \$95.00 for myself, and \$67.00 for Amber. Of course, payment is in Philippine pesos. That day, the peso is just about 46.00 = \$1.00.*
- 7:03am-11:30am *3rd FLOOR X-RAY DEPARTMENT. I gave our PDS to the attending X-Ray staff, but Amber's sheet was return for she does not need X-Ray. Don't worry, there is a signage hanging to where it is located. After that, the waiting game started. Tick, tack. After 15 minutes, my name was called. Amber did not need to have the X-ray since she is 14 years below, so I was alone waiting and Amber was sleeping in a chair. I signed a form, and then the staff told me to wait for my name to be called again. Wait,wait,wait. After 30 minutes, my name was called*

and I was asked to go inside the female dressing area (can only accommodate at about 5 people), after 15 minutes, I was taken to the X-Ray Room. X-Ray done.

4th FLOOR LABORATORY. At this stage, still Amber was not part of it. Submitted the form to the Lab Reception Counter. Wait. Then after 4 mins, my name was called. They let me sign a paper for HIV testing and gave me container for urine and blood (looks like a test tube). Then, told me to proceed to the main Laboratory for blood drawing. No priority number issued. First come, first serve basis. Chairs are stationed just outside the lab for waiting. Not painful at all. Then, proceed to table in front of the Comfort Room for the urinalysis. First come, first serve basis. The “urinalysis” was actually a pregnancy test. Results from HIV testing and urinalysis were submitted to the Lab Reception Counter. Then wait and wait. Name was called and results were stapled to my PDS.

5th FLOOR U.S COUNTER. Tasks are performed simultaneously at all levels in order to maximize and shorten the waiting time. Amber (5 y.o.) has to go through all the tests also Don't worry. The US Counter is there to help you on what to do. First step is to submit your PDS to the US Reception Counter staff. Then, wait for your name to be called over the PA System. Remember, the Canadian, New Zealand and Australian Counter is also located here, so the place is expectedly noisy and crowded.

After a minute, name called for the **height and weight** determination. Returned PDS to US Counter. 10 minutes past, name called for the **eye test**. Then, PDS returned to US Counter again. 15 mins past, name called for the **Vital Signs**. I got 20/20 vision and Amber has 30/20. Then submitted to US Counter again. 15 mins past, name was called for the **Immunization History Interview**. The line was really long. We were in the Doctor's Room after 30 mins of waiting. Be ready will all your immunization records. For kids, the record from the health center will do. If a private doctor did the shots, ask for a medical certificate and not just the informal patient data record. On our case, I had brought the official receipts of the shots from the private doctor, and fortunately, it was accepted by the doctor. Remember, you will be asked for any chickenpox scar. If you have, no varicella shot will be given. You are considered immune. Submitted PDS to US Counter again.

15 mins, our names were call for the Medical Examination. This is the part were all applicants are asked to disrobe completely. The doctor looked for scars especially in the wrist for any previous suicide attempts. This is also the part wherein you have to be honest with the doctor about your medical history, if you have previous serious illness or any major operation. I completed this phase without no hassle, but Amber had to undergo X-Ray because coughing problem. Then went to 3rd Floor for Amber's X-Ray. Submitted the PDS to the X-Ray Department staff, and decided to finish the process in the afternoon.

11:31am to 1:59pm

Lunch Break. Went back to our hotel.

2:00pm-4:00pm

3RD FLOOR X-RAY DEPARTMENT. After 1.5 hour (pew!), Amber'sr name was called. Proceeded to the dressing room, then 10 minutes later, to the X-Ray Room. Done. Then, submitted Amber's PDS to the X-RAY CHECK-OUT COUNTER. You can find Check-Out Counters basically in every storey of the building. You can submit you PDS anywhere; besides, everything will be sorted and centralized the next day (2nd day).It checks the completeness of medical report form. Additional instruction given.

Day 2 July 17, 2007 Tuesday

9:00am-12:00 GROUND FLOOR ENTRANCE. Asked for the entrance guard's assistance. Guard counter-checks the applicant's name against the Master List. Told us to proceed to 2nd floor for the Immunization Room. This is where vaccine/shots were given according to recommendation of the doctor in the Immunization Interview. Amber got 3 shots, and I got 2 shots.

1:00pm-4:30pm

GROUND FLOOR. RELASING COUNTERS. Since I was done with my whole medical exam ahead of Amber, my name was called way way before her. I got the results around 2:00pm, then for Amber about 4:30pm. Just imagine, we waited for 4.5 hours just to get the results. This is the longest wait of the whole process. And I don't care. Why? Because we got our results, and no further testing. **Take note, SLEC will only give your DS-3025 (Vaccination Documentation Worksheet) and X-Ray film, nothing else. Your passport will NOT be given back to you. SLEC will directly give it to the US Embassy for the Interview.**

Here we come US Embassy!!!!

"If you have questions about the process, please let me know. I am more willing to help." -Tingting Rimart