

# Patient Care Within The Spanish Health Care System: Reflections from a Summer Clinical Experience in Zaragoza, Spain

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**Background:** Zaragoza, Spain

**Population:** ~48 million Spain<sup>2</sup>, ~987,763 Zaragoza<sup>1</sup> | **Life Expectancy:** 82.7 years<sup>2</sup> | **Annual Income:** \$31,000<sup>3</sup>

**Healthcare System:**

- Residents receive care through primary care centers and regional hospitals
- Each patient has a family physician who provides continuous, comprehensive care and coordinates referrals

**Goals:**

- Observe Spain's healthcare organization and patient care delivery
- Develop cultural and clinical competence through immersive experiences
- Examine how an international healthcare system supports continuity and accessibility



**Summary of Trip:** 4-week shadowing program and 1 week of dedicated research

**Observed:** Family Medicine, Rural Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Neurology, Dermatology, and Surgery

**Conclusion:** The Spanish health care model provided us with cultural awareness and appreciation for a universal health care model, while also growing our interest in global health and health systems research.

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