

November 19, 2021

Medical Lab

In yesterday's Journal I mentioned how Nurse Rose drew blood from Naïve and Moïse. I failed to mention that Dr. Stéphanie and I drove the samples to a medical lab downtown. As we drove, I asked why we were going downtown. Steph said because MedLab was the best lab in Haiti. When we entered the lab, I could not believe what I was seeing. It was clean, quiet, organized, and efficient. As soon as we walked in, someone handed us a number. There was an electronic board saying what numbered patients were being served. I couldn't believe that I had never been to this lab before. I felt I was in a top lab in the US. I had never seen any medical facility like this in Haiti. Steph said it was because it was a private lab. When our number was quickly called, we were escorted to a room where a technician was prepared to draw our blood. Steph explained she was a doctor and we were simply delivering the blood samples from two children. The tests cost \$27 and I was able to pay with a credit card.

On the drive home, Dr. Stéphanie said we had to return on Thursday for Naïve's results and on Monday for Moïse's results. I dreaded the thought of driving downtown two more times. I told her that in the States you never go back to the lab for the results. They are emailed to the doctor; the patient could also access the lab results on the lab's website. When we got home, Steph looked more closely at the receipt for the two tests. Amazingly, she saw the results would be available on-line. Yesterday, when Dr. Steph came to work, I logged onto MedLab's website, typed in the patient number and to access code...and up came Naïve's test result. Dr. Stephanie could see the problem and knew what medication to give Naïve. I printed the lab report so Dr. Steph could insert it in Naïve's folder.

This might not sound like a bid deal, but for me it really was. Going downtown and back could easily eat up 90 minutes...and much longer. The lab reports I had seen her over the years were all handwritten. To have a neat, typed report was, for me, amazing.

