

FAMILY PRACTICE POSITION  
AT THE MENOMINEE TRIBAL CLINIC  
IN KESHENA, WISCONSIN

**INTRODUCTION:**

The family physicians of the Menominee Tribal Clinic provide comprehensive out-patient and in-patient care to Menominee Tribal members, Native Americans of other Tribes and a small number of Non-Indians.

The Menominee Tribal Clinic is one of the longest triba- operated clinics in the nation and offers out-patient, medical, dental, and community health services. In-patient services are provided by the family physicians at the Shawano Medical Center.

**MENOMINEE RESERVATION INFORMATION:**

The Menominee Reservation is located on 230,000 acres of rolling hills in Northeastern Wisconsin. Extensive stands of hardwood and the Wolf River make for a beautiful rural setting. The reservation is home to 4,000 Menominees. Major employers include the Menominee Tribal Enterprise which manages a sustained yield forest and saw mill; Menominee Gaming Corporation comprised of Bingo, Casino and Hotel; Tribal Government; Menominee Indian School District; Menominee College; and Menominee County Government.

The Menominee are Wisconsin's oldest residents dating back more than 5,000 years. They once inhabited 9 million acres from Milwaukee to Michigan's Upper Peninsula. A series of Federal treaties caused the reservation to dwindle to its current size. The Menominee were considered to be prosperous compared to other Tribes and had their tribal status terminated by the Federal Government in 1963. This was a bleak time for the Menominee people as their hospital closed, poverty was rampant and prime lake land was sold to Non-Indians for recreational development. After much lobbying of congress, tribal status was restored in 1973. A rebuilding of the community infrastructure then took place.

A high school was built in the late 70's allowing culturally sensitive education to take place on the reservation. The Gaming industry has brought much needed jobs to the reservation and proceeds have been spent on construction and initiation of several Tribal programs including the

Menominee College, Maehnowesekiyah Alcohol Treatment Center, youth centers and a new housing development. An 8 member Tribal Legislature and a Tribal Chairman govern the Tribe.

### **THE MENOMINEE TRIBAL CLINIC:**

The Clinic was built in 1977, one of the first clinics in the nation built under the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975. A third addition to the clinic was built in 1996 to provide adequate space for employees providing comprehensive ambulatory care. Medical, Dental, Mental Health, Women's Health, Laboratory, Radiology, Pharmacy, Optometry, Nutrition and Community Health Nursing Services are provided at the Clinic from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Colposcopy and obstetrical ultrasound are routinely performed at the clinic. Periodic consultative clinics in cardiology, podiatry and psychiatry are provided at the clinic. Tribal and county programs provide additional mental health and substance abuse programs, in addition to ambulance services. Medical students and residents routinely rotate through the clinic as part of their education. The Medical Staff consists of six (6) board certified family physicians, two (2) mid-level providers, four (4) dentists, three (3) psychologists, and two (2) optometrists. Out-patient medical visits for 2004 are at 21,000, mental health visits at 1,300, dental visits at 5,700, and 1,300 optometry.

### **SHAWANO MEDICAL CENTER INFORMATION:**

The hospital is a 25 bed critical access community hospital that has a medical staff of 25 physicians. It is primarily a family practice hospital with two (2) general surgeons and full-time emergency room coverage. Consultation in the areas of pulmonology, orthopedics, ENT and cardiology are provided at least weekly. Family physicians perform endoscopy, colonoscopy, cesarean sections and assist in surgeries, in addition to providing intensive, general medical and obstetrical care. A 12 million dollar remodeling was completed in 1996. Menominee physicians admitted 900 patients in 2004 and performed over 110 deliveries.

### **SHAWANO INFORMATION:**

Most physicians live in the city of Shawano. This is a community of 8,000 located on the Wolf River, surrounded by farms and dairyland and near a large resort lake. Recreational opportunities abound year round and include boating, golf, fishing, tennis, swimming, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, deer hunting, and ice fishing. There are a variety of public and private schools of good quality and a quality public library.

The community high school with swimming pool was completed in 1998. The city runs a recreational center with exercise room, pool and racquetball courts.

The community is a family oriented town. All major church denominations are represented in Shawano and the major employers are light industry. Unemployment is currently at 4%. Shawano is located 200 miles East of Minneapolis, St. Paul; 140 miles North of Milwaukee and 35 miles West of Green Bay.

## **PHYSICIAN INFORMATION:**

The tribal physicians staff the Menominee Tribal Clinic from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday. Physicians receive 1/2 day off per week. Physicians rotate call and are on call for 1/2 a week at a time. Call responsibilities include management of the in-patient service (usually 2-8 patients), answering phone calls from patients, and occasionally helping with emergencies in the emergency department. The call physician has an abbreviated clinic schedule. One nurse is assigned to each physician. Clinic notes are dictated and an electronic health record is anticipated within the next year. Patients admitted to the hospital are seen by the tribal physician at the time of admission or the next morning, depending upon the clinical situation. Out-patients who need care after hours are seen by the full-time E.R. physicians at the Shawano Medical Center. Physicians are salaried employees of the Tribe and have an attractive employment contract with full benefits. Employment through the Public Health Service is also available.

For further information:

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also available is the clinic website: [mtclinic.net](http://mtclinic.net)