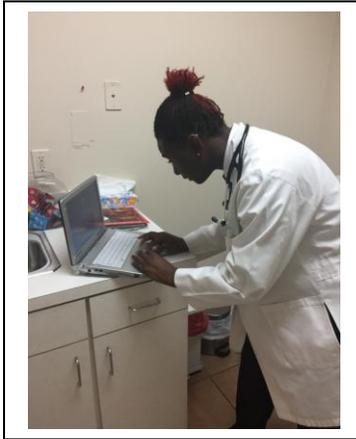


**Alesha McNair**  
Aspiring Medical Professional



During my internship experience, I shadowed two different physicians, both associated with the North East Florida Medical Society. The first two weeks and the last two weeks, I shadowed Dr. Gordon at the Foot and Ankle Clinic.

I spent a lot of time with the Office Assistant who explained front office processes and procedures. She also explained my daily work assignments. While there, I learned how to schedule patient appointments and how to appropriately call patients' Primary Care Physician to give and obtain patient information.

My experience also included administrative functions such as answering the phone, filing records and faxing documents. Dr. Gordon taught me different terminology and skills and tools that are used in the medical office setting. On occasions, I was able to watch Dr. Gordon perform surgical procedures on patients. I also learned how to sanitize a room after a patient's visit and properly prepare the room for the next patient.

My second internship experience took place with Primary Care Physician, Dr. Rogers Cain. This experience was a lot different than my first experience in that Dr. Gordon knew what the patient was coming in for prior to their arrival and she treated the patient on the spot. On the other hand, by Dr. Cain being a Primary Care Physician, he oftentimes was not aware of what was ailing the patient until after he had a conversation with the patient and analyzed the situation. Even then, in most cases, he did not treat the patient for their condition. Rather, he would prescribe medication (if needed) and/or refer them to a specialist for treatment.

After obtaining permission from the patients, Dr. Cain would call me into the room and have me introduce myself to the patients. I would then observe Dr. Cain as he began to ask questions, analyze and diagnose the problem. Dr. Cain would always explain to the patient, based on his evaluation, the root cause of their signs/symptoms. Dr. Cain always speaks to his patients in basic language so that they are clear on what is going on with their body; oftentimes comparing the body to a car. When I was called into room, I was able to listen to the patient's problem, observe the issue and take down notes that I was not aware of in case I need to use it for lifetime situations. Also, if Dr. Cain felt like the patient needed further treatment, he would refer them to the appropriate specialist for care.

Though both experiences were very different, I am grateful to have been able to receive firsthand knowledge of what working in a medical environment is all about. I am very grateful to the AnnieRuth Foundation for this experience.