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El Rio Health
Tucson, AZ

Re: Family Nurse Practitioner, Primary Care

Dear Hiring Manager,

El Rio Health's opening for a primary care FNP describes a panel that is mostly AHCCCS and a clinic focused on diabetes and hypertension control. That is the work I do now at Desert Valley Community Health Center across town, and I want to keep doing it inside a larger health center with more on-site support for my patients.

I see 18 to 22 patients a day on a panel of about 1,300. Eighteen months ago only 58% of my patients with diabetes had an A1c under 8%. I started running point-of-care A1c at every diabetes visit so we could adjust medications in the room instead of calling a week later with results, and I got comfortable starting and titrating GLP-1 and SGLT2 agents. That share is now 71%. Sending FIT kits home from every eligible visit moved my colorectal screening rate from 41% to 54% on our UDS report.

Before primary care I spent 18 months as the weekend provider at an urgent care, seeing 30 to 40 patients a shift, and six years as an emergency department nurse at Banner University Medical Center Tucson. That background helps with same-day sick visits: lacerations, abscesses, and deciding who needs the emergency department now and who can be managed in clinic.

I hold FNP-BC certification through ANCC, an Arizona APRN license with prescribing authority, and a DEA registration for Schedules II through V. I would be glad to talk with your medical director about panel expectations and about precepting, which I would like to continue.

Sincerely,

Samuel Okonkwo, MSN, FNP-BC