The Swedish Community Specialty Clinic (SCSC) operates a dental extraction clinic in partnership with Swedish Medical Center, the Seattle-King County Dental Society and Foundation, Project Access Northwest and Pacific Hospital Preservation and Development Association. The SCSC provides oral surgery services including simple extractions, surgical extractions, impacted tooth removal, biopsy services and pre-prosthetic surgery to low-income individuals who have no other access to care. To be seen at the SCSC, patients must meet strict financial criteria and are accepted into the program only after approval by Project Access Northwest and a referral from a local Community Health Center.

The priority of the SCSC is to keep patients out of the local Emergency Rooms by providing a much-needed oral surgery resource for the Community Health Centers. The goal is to take care of these patients before their needs become emergent. The cost of dental care in our local Emergency Rooms is approximately $1000 per visit and typically is only palliative. Patients often present to the ER with multiple areas of infection, any of which could lead to a life-threatening emergency and/or an expensive hospital stay. Our ability to provide this important care is based largely upon the willingness of dental professionals to volunteer their time.

We are looking for volunteers who are comfortable with a wide array of dentoalveolar surgery. While not required, advanced training in an AEGD, GPR, Periodontal or Oral Surgery Residency is encouraged. The clinic is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, but the patient demand is so great that we plan to open additional days in the near future. A volunteer can specify time, date, and level of complexity of treatment he or she is comfortable providing. Full or half days are available. Volunteer participation fulfills up to seven annual hours of continuing education credit under WAC 246-817-440 – one credit for each hour volunteered.

Like all hospitals, Swedish Medical Center requires all providers to undergo a credentialing process. This results in full medical staff privileges and an appointment in the Department of Surgery. Volunteers can also choose to have their assistants credentialed, although experienced assistants are provided at the SCSC. Swedish is waiving its credentialing fee for all dentist and assistant volunteers.

For additional information or an application for privileges please contact Noah Letwin DDS, PhD, Dental director of the SCSC at (206) 860-6656 or email at noah.letwin@swedish.org.