

Killeen Medical Home opening delayed

By Brandy Gill

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FORT HOOD, Texas – In May the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center opened two of three planned community based medical homes in Harker Heights and Copperas Cove, and the third home, based in Killeen, was scheduled to open in early June.

However, due to unavoidable construction delays the Killeen Medical Home grand opening was postponed.

It is now scheduled to open its doors to patients in the fall of 2011, Lawrence Stone, the Killeen Medical Home group practice manager said.

About 2,000 family members have already enrolled in the Killeen Medical Home. However, families must continue to receive health care with their current provider until the new clinic opens.

“We apologize for this unavoidable delay in the opening of the Killeen Medical Home,” Stone said. “Once the clinic opens, your primary care manager will automatically change to the Killeen Medical Home.”

The Fort Hood medical homes are among 19 community-based care clinics that the Medical Command has opened, or will open, in 11 communities across the continental U.S. and Hawaii.

They are located in communities close to Army posts like Fort Hood so military beneficiaries living in local areas have access to care closer to their homes instead of having to commute to on-post clinics for appointments.

Patients who receive their care at a medical home clinic are assigned to a team led by a physician who manages and tracks their health care. They will see the same team at every visit. This new concept improves the continuity of care for all patients.

The medical homes are designed to provide a full range of care and services, and they each feature 18 exam rooms, a pharmacy and lab. They are staffed with 35 civilian medical professionals, including physicians, lab techs, administrative personnel, pharmacists and nurses.

Medical homes throughout the Army Medical Command are all based on the same model. So regardless of which medical home you are assigned to, either here at Fort Hood or at other military installations, you can expect to see a very similar setting when receiving care.

Even though the delays have set back the opening of the Killeen Medical Home, patients can still look forward to receiving the exceptional care they deserve, Col. Patrick Sargent, the CRDAMC commander, said.

“We certainly understand the frustration of our patients who have already signed up to receive their care at our Killeen Medical Home, and I want to personally apologize for the inconvenience. ” he said. “While the delay is unfortunate, it was necessary to ensure we meet the high standards expected at every Army medical home facility. I have full confidence that once this location is open our beneficiaries will be supremely happy with the comfortable environment and excellent care they receive.”

For more information prior to the opening, please call 254-288-8888, and select option six.

– 30 –

CUTLINE

The Killeen Medical Home is one of three new clinics that are located in communities near Fort Hood. It was originally scheduled to open in June, but due to construction delays it is now expected to open in the fall. Patients who enrolled to this medical home will be automatically transferred once it opens. For more information about receiving care at a Medical Home in a community near you contact TRICARE at (800) 444-5445. (Photo by Brandy Gill, CRDAMC Public Affairs, July 28, 2011)