



Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center

Carl R. Darnall Army
Medical Center

Fort Hood, Texas

February 2011

CRDAMC receives award for increased productivity

The Army's Surgeon General, Lt. General Eric Schoomaker, awarded Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center two checks totaling \$180,000 at the 2011 Military Health System Conference Jan. 24 through 27 in National Harbor, Md., for achieving more than five percent increases in inpatient and outpatient productivity.

At an awards ceremony Feb. 7, the medical center commander, Dr. Steven Braverman, presented the two checks to his deputies who he said symbolically represented the entire organization.

"It is all of your hard work that made a difference in earning this money," he said. "Our intent is to turn this money back to our staff, in one way or another that benefits everyone and is a testament to all the great work everybody does here."

This is the third consecutive six-month period CRDAMC was awarded money for productivity increases in both inpatient and outpatient care. Previous awards were for



Colonel Risa Bator (left), Command Sgt. Maj. Keith Seidler, Col. Kimberly Kesling and Col. Cynthia O'Connell hold the big checks representing the \$180,000 CRDAMC was awarded for achieving more than five percent increases in inpatient and outpatient productivity. (U.S. Army photo by Patricia Deal,

\$220,000 and \$120,000.

"In the past we have used the money to make improvements such as adding a new dayroom for the enlisted Soldiers (opening this month), upgrading our helicopter display and adding new patio coverings, awnings and

misters," Braverman said. "Ideas for this money so far include adding video conferencing capabilities at our off-site clinics to facilitate meetings and consultation and enhancing the areas around the dining facility."

Darnall looking for volunteers

Darnall is looking for volunteers for its new Customer Service Volunteer Group. Any spouse with a military ID card is eligible to become a volunteer. The purpose of the group is to solicit suggestions and feedback from military beneficiaries. Darnall's goal is to provide the best possible healthcare to all beneficiaries. Your concerns and workable suggestions can help make changes to processes and policies. Individuals interested in volunteering must attend the training session from 9 a. m. – 4 p.m. Mar. 2, in the III Corps HQs building 1001 Conference Room 3.

How to Access Health Care

NURSE ADVICE LINE

Speak to a Registered Nurse 24/7
Advice about urgent health issues
Guidance on non-emergency issues. Information about self-care for injuries and illnesses
1-254-553-3695

APPOINTMENTS ONLINE

Register online to make appointments
And refill prescriptions on the Web at
www.tricareonline.com

EVENING APPOINTMENTS

Thomas Moore Health Clinic
58th Street & 761st Tank
Destroyer Blvd.
Appointments from 5—8 p.m.
On Monday, Tuesday, and
Thursday
Call 254-288-8888

WEEKEND WALK-IN CARE

Thomas Moore Health Clinic
58th Street & 761st Tank
Destroyer Blvd.
Saturday & Sunday
From 8—11 a.m. and 1—3 p.m.

QUICKCARE

Prompt treatment of minor injuries and sudden illnesses
Walk-in Care for Families enrolled to
Bennett Health Clinic, Russell Collier Health Clinic, and Thomas Moore Health Clinic
Monday through Friday
From 8 a.m.—5 p.m.



Meningitis vaccine available at CRDAMC clinic

In response to the recent public concern regarding bacterial meningitis in college students, Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center is offering the meningococcal vaccine to eligible dependents during extended hours at the Thomas Moore Health Clinic.

No bacterial meningitis cases have been diagnosed at Darnall in recent months. Darnall is offering the vaccine as a precautionary measure for parents concerned about their college students.

Thomas Moore Health Clinic, on 58th Street and 761st Battalion Ave. at Fort Hood, will be open for walk-in care from 4 – 7 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday for college students to get the meningococcal vaccine.

The Moore Health Clinic is also open from 8 – 10 a.m. and from 1 – 3 p.m. on weekends to accommodate student schedules. Students should bring their immunization records

with them for review and documentation.

“*Viral* meningitis has many different causes, and the great majorities are self-limited infections that require no specific therapy,” advises Dr. Gary Holmes, Infectious Disease Service, at CRDAMC.

“However, *bacterial* meningitis is often more severe and requires aggressive therapy,” Holmes said.

Holmes added that, “One of these, meningococcal meningitis, is a rare but severe form of meningitis, most cases of which can be prevented with the meningococcal vaccine. College students, particularly freshmen living in dormitories, are at increased risk of exposure to meningococcal infections. Recently, a student at Texas A&M University died of meningococcal meningitis.”

Meningitis infection is characterized by fever, headache, and stiff neck. Not all symptoms need be present and meningitis may be accompanied by

other symptoms such as skin rash, vomiting, light sensitivity, confusion and sleepiness, nausea, lethargy, and seizures.

“Anyone with symptoms of possible meningitis should seek immediate medical attention,” said Holmes.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends meningococcal vaccine for the following groups:

Pre-teens/Adolescents: Meningococcal conjugate vaccine is routinely recommended for all children ages 11 through 18. If your child did not get this vaccine at the 11- or 12-year-old check-up, make an appointment now.

Adults: Either meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine or meningococcal conjugate vaccine is recommended for adults if you are or will be a college freshman living in a dormitory; are a military recruit; have a damaged spleen or your spleen has been removed; have terminal complement deficiency; or are traveling to or residing in countries in which the disease is common.

Population Health team wins Excalibur award

A ten-member team from Darnall’s Population Health Division received the Surgeon General’s Excalibur Award for its role in developing unique processes to improve Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set metrics and screening, which helped save the lives of 15 women with breast cancer.

“This award is testament to the fact that we are making a difference in helping others,” said Dr. Steven Braverman. “This is a great program that shows we have made great strides in doing all those population health tasks that are required of us, such as cancer and diabetic screening. What was most impressive about the program, in addition to the cost savings realized, was that as a direct result of this program, 15 women were identified with early-stage breast cancer that would have otherwise gone untreated.”

The larger CRDAMC interdisciplinary

team is comprised of members from Radiology, Surgery, Medicine, Family Medicine, Gynecology, Pathology, Nursing, Managed Care and Information Management departments.

Using 2006 and 2007 data as the baseline, performance in these quality measures has continued to improve. Performance Based Adjustment Methodology reimbursement increased 73 percent between May 2009 and 2010 and 15 women were diagnosed with breast cancer through the intervention.

“What is also noteworthy about this program is that these new interventions are essentially human resource neutral. Patient identification, order entry and notification processes have been done by a minimal staffing of three to five employees while continuing to meet their other job responsibilities,” said Dr. Wayne A. Schirner, chief, Population Health Division. “I think

it’s an outstanding program.

“I’m proud of each and every member of the team. Everyone has put a lot of hard work and effort into it for a very long time,” he added. “While it’s nice to be recognized at the Army Surgeon General level, the best reward is seeing the positive results that show we’re doing all we can to help our beneficiaries.”

To win the prestigious Excalibur Award, teams and organizations must show that they have met stringent guidelines for implementing improvements and innovations which have directly increased the efficiency and effectiveness of programs and processes within the Army Medical Department, according to the AMEDD web site.

Along with recognizing excellence, the award program promotes the long range benefits of good ideas and best practices.