



Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center

Public Affairs Office
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Construction begins on new medical center; infrastructure to be complete by 2012

As part of the \$9.4 million infrastructure contract to support the construction of the new Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center here, approximately five miles of “duct banks” is being dug beneath the grounds of the existing hospital parking area to distribute 3,500 telephones lines and fiber optic cables.

This entire infrastructure project is expected to be complete in early-2012, according to Brian Prediger, chief of Facilities Management for Darnall Medical Center. The project provides connectivity to the garrison information management hub and also to the new stadium under construction near Clear Creek.

Also as part of this project, a new 1,100 square foot telephone switching station facility will be constructed near the new south parking lot of the current hospital.

“Although it will be a multi-year process to get the new hospital completely constructed, it is exciting to see pieces of the project kick off,” Prediger said. “At the end of



Contractors installing conduit as part of the \$9.4 million infrastructure contract to support the construction of the new medical center. (Corps of Engineers Photo by Kevin

April, general civil engineering work will begin on the site of the new hospital. There will be many back-hoes and bulldozers visible from the existing hospital as the contractor grades the former stadium site, preparing it for the actual construction of the new facility.

“And from that point on, there will increased physical construction activity as the new hospital begins to come to fruition,” he added.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects that approximately 1,000 workers will be on site at the peak of construction,

many from local small businesses.

At 947,000 square feet, the new medical center will be 60 percent larger than the current building and will include a six-story hospital tower, three out-patient specialty clinic buildings and three parking garages.

It is the largest Department of Defense contract funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as the stimulus package.

The new hospital is expected to be open for patient care in the summer of 2015.

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TRICARE Pharmacy Program Mail Order Pharmacy is Convenient

Clinics opening in local communities

The Department of Defense (DoD) provides a world-class pharmacy benefit through TRICARE to all eligible uniformed service members, retirees, and family members, including beneficiaries age 65 and older. The TRICARE Pharmacy Program provides outpatient prescription drugs to more than 9.6 million beneficiaries.

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If you have other health insurance with a prescription benefit, you can't refill prescriptions via home delivery unless:

1. The medication you require is not covered by your other health plan; or
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Verification from your other health insurance is needed, along with your prescription.

For more information about home delivery of prescriptions visit: <http://www.tricare.mil/>, click on **TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery**.

Family members of active duty Soldiers will soon have more convenient access to healthcare with the May 2011 opening of the Harker Heights and Copperas Cove community-based primary care clinics.



The Harker Heights and Copperas Cove clinics are two of three "medical home" clinics opening in Central Texas. The Killeen clinic opening is tentatively set for June.

The Harker Heights Medical Home will be located in the Market Heights shopping mall on East Highway 190. The "medical home" concept of providing primary health care is different from the traditional delivery of health care in military clinics.

The new concept was inspired from the ground up by military patients' ideas and suggestions about how Army healthcare should be.

According to Noel Webster, the group practice manager, "Enrollment is currently limited to active-duty family members living in the following zip codes: Temple (76501, 76502, 76503, 76504), Belton (76513), Killeen (76540, 76541, 76543), Harker Heights (76548), Nolanville (76559) and Salado (76571).

Webster assures Darnall's patients currently enrolled in clinics on post that they can choose to remain in their current clinic.

"However, if you prefer to change your enrollment to the Harker Heights Medical Home, you can," Webster said.

He said letters have gone out to patients in the eligible zip codes explaining how to request a change in enrollment to the Harker Heights Medical Home clinic.

"This initiative improves access to primary care by reducing reliance on emergency rooms at medical treatment or network facilities for routine health care needs,"

These clinics help to validate The Army Surgeon General's commitment ensuring convenient access to primary care.

