



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U. S. ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY
FORT DRUM, NEW YORK 13602-5004

MCID-PCC

26 August 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR All Personnel, USA MEDDAC, Fort Drum, NY 13602

SUBJECT: Supervision of Children in MEDDAC Facilities and Clinics

1. The healthcare teams of the US Army Medical Department Activity (MEDDAC), Fort Drum are committed to providing high quality care in an environment that is safe for both patients and staff. To optimize every patient encounter, an atmosphere conducive to good patient-provider interaction is necessary. When parents or guardians and providers are distracted by non-patient children, the encounters are conducted in an unsafe environment.
2. Patients are discouraged from bringing children who do not have healthcare appointments to patient encounters, or appointments, because of the potential impact to patient and child safety. In most cases, children without an appointment should not accompany a parent, guardian, or sibling into examination rooms and treatment rooms. Children will not enter the Laboratory or Radiology areas unless the child is the patient.
 - a. Parents or guardians are responsible for the control, discipline, and supervision of their children while in MEDDAC's facilities and clinics. Children under the age of 10 years old require appropriate supervision at all times, anywhere within MEDDAC facilities. It is advisable parents or guardians place their children in appropriate childcare while the parent or guardian attends medical appointments.
 - b. If patients are attending non-urgent appointments with children that do not have adequate supervision, the patients will be asked to reschedule the encounters/appointments. If the patient's reason for an appointment is urgent, appropriate care will be provided.
3. When booking an appointment, the staff will inform patients about this policy.
4. The staff will not delay the evaluation or provision of care to patients that require urgent care.
5. Providers, clinicians, nursing staff, and/or technicians will make the final determination if children without appointments will be allowed to accompany parents/guardians and/or siblings during healthcare appointments. When making these decisions, the MEDDAC teams should allow some children to accompany their parents/guardians and siblings during appointments. For example:
 - a. Infants and young children in carriers or strollers.
 - b. Prenatal visits at the OB/GYN Clinic where the Father, significant other, and children may accompany patients under the Family Centered Care Initiative and are welcome to attend the visits.


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Commanding