



AT THE FOREFRONT

GROUNDBREAKING PROGRAMS ENHANCE SOLDIERS' HEALTH.

The readiness of U.S. Army Soldiers is of paramount significance to our nation's security. Physicians on the U.S. Army health care team not only have the important mission of supporting our Soldiers and their families, but they also participate in a variety of groundbreaking programs that enhance and promote health initiatives on a larger scale. Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho, the Army surgeon general, sees the role of Army Medicine as that of innovator. "Army Medicine does health care better than anyone else in the world," said Horoho. "Now we are going to be the model for delivering health."

A STRONGER FOCUS ON PATIENTS

The U.S. Army is converting medical care throughout its treatment facilities to a new model called Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH). PCMH encourages a close, cooperative and continuing relationship between patients and health care providers, such as physicians, nurse practitioners or physician assistants. It also offers advanced access to care, support from a coordinated team and the use of information technology to manage care.

"A growing body of research indicates that adoption of the principles of PCMH will result in improved access, higher levels of staff and patient satisfaction, better quality of care, lower overall health costs and improved Soldier and family readiness," said Lt. Col. Timothy Caffrey, primary care staff officer at U.S. Army Medical Command. Ultimately, PCMH puts the patient at the center of care, offering more control and flexibility, as well as better outcomes.

PERFORMANCE TRIAD PROGRAM

The U.S. Army health care team is testing the Performance Triad program, whose goal is to transform Army Medicine from a health care system to a system for health. At a comprehensive workshop, Army medical personnel and attendees looked at the barriers preventing Soldiers, leaders, units and families from achieving healthy sleep, activity and nutrition and outlined plans to address each area, including education, policies, incentives and outcomes. A pilot program has been implemented at three installations, with the results to be analyzed for a full rollout. As these issues are not exclusive to the Army, the hope is that, with the nation's warriors leading the way, the rest of the nation will also benefit from the education.

FIRST-CLASS DENTISTRY

The U.S. Army health care team created the Go First Class program to improve Soldiers' dental health. Col. Thomas R. Tempel Jr., of U.S. Army Dental Command, describes it as "a proactive approach, whereby Soldiers who come in for an exam also get a cleaning and often get a cavity filled all in one visit." Army dentists appreciate contributing to the wellness and readiness of the force, and satisfaction among Soldiers has reached 95 percent. The program saves about 1.25 million hours of time per year, equating to \$31 million in pay and benefits.

Army dental researchers have also developed an innovative portable digital reader that functions like an X-ray machine in the field and is being used in remote areas of Afghanistan. Research is being conducted on dental trauma as well, including facial and tooth reconstruction following an event such as an improvised explosive device blast.

SERVING OUR SOLDIERS

The U.S. Army health care team's drive for innovation in health care delivery is part of our rewarding mission to support and serve Soldiers and their families. Health care practitioners who join us will find many opportunities to fulfill that important goal while exploring areas of professional interest and growing as a leader and in their medical specialty. Army Medicine offers attractive ways to expand your skills in a highly advanced setting.

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