



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

13 Area Branch Health Clinic to expand services

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MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - The Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton will move into the replacement hospital near the main entrance of MCB Camp Pendleton this December. To accommodate the shift in location, the 13 Area Branch Health Clinic will soon expand its primary care services to include Department of Defense family members and military retirees in the Fallbrook, Temecula and Murrieta area.

All eligible beneficiaries have been identified and will be mailed information on how to shift their enrollment if desired.

To allow for this increase in services, a \$156,000 renovation is underway to expand the clinic's pharmacy space by 40 percent, expand the immunizations area, and reallocate space for support staff functions.

According to Cmdr. Dale Ramirez, the hospital's Director of Branch Clinics, the plan is to have the expansion ready in early

October. The clinic currently consists of a family physician and a nurse practitioner. The plan is to add another family physician, nurse practitioner and a physician assistant allowing the clinic to treat an additional 3,500 patients compared to the 2,700 patients it treats now.

"This renovation will allow us to provide the same quality healthcare in the 13 Area for our families as they were receiving at the hospital," said Ramirez. "We want our beneficiaries who live in the corridor of Fallbrook, Temecula and Murrieta to have this as an option for care so they won't have to commute an extra 12 miles to the new facility."

In addition to primary care, the clinic has a small laboratory, basic radiology capabilities and immunizations. Once a month, a gynecologist visits the clinic for those requesting a female provider for women's healthcare. The building also has a Sports Medicine and Reconditioning Team (SMART) clinic composed of sports medicine and chiropractic services. Occupational therapy services will also be added to the current physical therapy clinic.

In an effort to further improve convenience of receiving primary care, NHCP is planning to open a branch clinic in the Temecula/Murrieta area in late 2014 or early 2015.

For patients who will continue to be seen at the replacement Naval Hospital located near the main gate of Marine

Corps Base Camp Pendleton, construction is scheduled to be complete in October with move in dates of Dec. 2-15, 2013.

Medical care will continue to be provided during the move period. Emergency medical care and labor and delivery care will not be discontinued through the move period, but scheduled or elective medical care may incur slight interruptions for a day during the transition. Medical appointments will also be limited Nov. 7 and 8 due to staff training in the new facility.

All the services currently available at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton will continue to be available at the replacement hospital.

A new, four-story, 1,500 space parking garage and surface parking lots will provide more than 2,500 parking spaces. This is more than twice the number of spaces currently available.

For more information about Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton and the upcoming move, visit the command internet webpage at www.cpen.med.navy.mil or official Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NavalHospitalCampPendleton>.