



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY
2480 LLEWELLYN AVENUE
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-5800

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

30 July 2004

POLICY STATEMENT NO. 26

CHILDREN IN KIMBROUGH AMBULATORY CARE CENTER'S CLINICS

1. This policy defines when it is appropriate for children to be and not to be in patient areas in Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center. There are inherent dangers in leaving children under eight years of age unsupervised in the waiting areas of Kimbrough, including injury to the child or other patients. Whenever possible, patients who have children under eight years of age with them should be encouraged to schedule their appointments at a time when they can arrange for child care or can bring a responsible person with them to watch the child. Staff in patient care areas must exercise common sense and discretion in applying this policy. Exceptions, such as in the three examples listed below, are encouraged by all staff.

- a. A service member has been deployed or is on temporary duty away from home and no other family member or friend is available to assist the parent who is accompanying the child.
- b. A family has newly arrived to Fort Meade and has not set up routine child care.
- c. The parent requires an acute same-day appointment and drop-in child care or guardian is not available on such short notice.

2. Policy. The following policy is based on Maryland State law and Fort Meade policy:

- a. All children under the age of eight must have supervision in direct line of sight of a parent or a reliable person at least 13 years of age at all times. Volunteers may serve as supervisors with parental approval.
- b. Children over the age of eight may accompany a patient to his or her medical appointment but in the majority of cases will remain in the waiting area during the actual appointment.
- c. Children of any age will not be routinely allowed in examination rooms unless they are directly seeking medical attention. Under no circumstances will a gynecology or similar private examination be performed on a patient with a child in the room.
- d. No member of the staff will assume responsibility for non-medical supervision of children except in a medical emergency.
- e. At the discretion of the health care provider, if the accompanying child becomes disruptive, the appointment will be rescheduled.


BILLIE J. MIELCAREK
COL, SP
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

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