Transforming Health Care in the NCR

The Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical is leading the Department of Defense’s efforts in transforming military health care and delivering world-class care to patients and family members. In the National Capital Region, JTF CapMed, with the leadership of Vice Admiral John Mateczun, established an Integrated Delivery System to provide some of the best health care available in the world today. The term “IDS” describes the relationships of different health care delivery elements, usually in private sector organizations. Previously in the NCR, the Army, Navy, and Air Force governed and operated medical facilities that were tightly aligned to individual Services. The National Capital Region Medical IDS provides the DoD the unique opportunity to achieve an inter-service system that is integrated from the patient, family and inter-service perspective. Two new world-class facilities anchor the NCR Medical IDS: Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in Fort Belvoir, Va and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

THE NCR MEDICAL IDS HAS THREE MILLION SQUARE FEET OF NEW AND RENOVATED WORLD-CLASS HOSPITAL FACILITIES

World-class Care

A medical facility achieves the distinction of being considered world class by providing care in an exceptional manner including using the latest advances in the biomedical, informatics and engineering sciences.

Advancing Research

The Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical has the opportunity to conduct, manage and advance medical research that is specific to the military’s unique population in the National Capital Region. The region is pioneering research in wound care, limb salvage, plastic surgery and reconstruction, traumatic brain injury, among others, and sharing this information with the greater medical community.

Two World-class Facilities Anchor the NCR Medical IDS

The National Capital Region Medical Integrated Delivery System is based on a patient-centric model that brings together the best of the Army, Navy and Air Force’s medical care. By integrating services, capabilities, technologies and resources, health care in the National Capital Region is able to be greater than the sum of its parts. Through this integrated system, Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical is able to standardize the purchasing and use of state-of-the-art medical equipment and materials which decreases cost and increases patient safety. Right now, this level of standardization can only be found in the NCR. Integration has also allowed us to leverage purchasing power with vendors through economies of scale and provides the opportunity to review current duplicative processes and administrative services across the NCR to streamline and consolidate operations. This world-class integrated health care delivery system will heighten the reputation of military health care and facilitate the recruitment, utilization and retention of world-class talent.

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Warrior Rehabilitation and Family Support

The Department of Defense is now able to care for Wounded, Ill, and Injured Warriors and their Families more effectively than ever. For the first time, the Military Health System operates in a more Joint and integrated model both in theater and at home, including greater integration with the Veterans Health System. Large field hospitals are no longer necessary because—as a result of medical advances—wounded Service members are transferred from point of injury to medical centers in the U.S. within 72 hours of injury. The National Capital Region has achieved significant advances in caring for amputees, traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorders. The National Intrepid Center of Excellence, located on the Bethesda campus, provides the most advanced services for diagnostics, initial treatment planning and family education, introduction to therapeutic modalities, referral and reintegration support for military personnel and veterans with Traumatic Brain Injuries, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and/or complex psychological health issues. The NICOE also conducts research, tests new protocols and provides comprehensive training and education to patients, providers and families while maintaining ongoing telehealth follow-up care throughout the world. Additionally, we built new double-occupancy suites in the region that accommodate a Wounded Warrior and a non-medical attendant. Each suite includes two bedrooms with private baths and closets, living areas, kitchenettes and laundry facilities so that Wounded Warriors can transition to a more home-like environment, and practice skills required for activities of daily living. Facilities like the Military Advanced Training Center, which moved from the Walter Reed Army Medical Center to the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, continues to help Wounded Warriors build their strength, skills and confidence so that the effects of war do not dictate their future life choices.

Enhanced Patient Care with New Advanced Technology

Patients in the National Capital Region benefit from the new capabilities, technologies and services made available by the National Capital Region Medical Integrated Delivery System. Benefits include a centralized appointment and referral process that eliminates redundancies and matches patients quickly with a primary and/or specialty care provider. The National Capital Region Medical IDS has three million square feet of new and renovated world-class medical facilities—new single-patient rooms, operating rooms, parking structures, outpatient clinics, and patient exam rooms. Both Fort Belvoir Community Hospital and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center use evidence-based design principles to decrease patient stress, increase social support, provide ample light, improve privacy and improve sleep and rest. The NCR focuses on patient-centered care and providing enhanced wayfinding at the facilities, smart-suite technology, advanced air filtration systems, automatic check-in units, patient lifts and nursing and support staff decentralization. New and expanded technologies and capabilities available also include a Nurse Call System for more effective and efficient patient-to-staff and staff-to-staff communication, additional 64-slice PET/CT Scan systems, integrated surgical suites with Karl Storz Endoscopy Systems, daVinci Robotics, and an InVitro Fertilization Clinic. The WRNMMC Comprehensive Cancer Center, which opened in September, is the only peer-partner-in-care center with the National Cancer Institute in addition to being an National Institutes of Health-designated Comprehensive Care Center. This center provides patients with the most effective approaches to cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment. It includes new and enhanced services including gynecological, prostate, breast, medical and surgical oncology.