

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY
FORT CARSON, COLORADO 80913-5101

MCXE

29 November, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR Tri-West Service Center, Mr. Pat Shibly

SUBJECT: Appointment Protocol for Adolescents

1. Tri-West appointment protocol should allow adolescents to schedule appointments in accordance with MEDDAC Regulation 40-3-127, Informed Consent. The following exceptions to the current Tri-West protocol involving patients under 18 should be made:

- a. An emancipated minor may make an appointment for him or herself.
- b. A minor may make an appointment for birth control procedures, supplies and information from a physician for himself/herself. However, no unmarried person below 18 years of age may consent to permanent sterilization procedures without the consent of a parent or guardian. Prenatal care requires an adults consent under Colorado law.
- c. A minor may book an appointment for treatment of alcoholism for himself/herself.
- d. A minor may book an appointment for examination, treatment and prescription for addiction or use of drugs.
- e. A minor may book an appointment for diagnostic examination, and treatment of sexually transmitted disease.
- f. A minor may book an appointment for consultation, examination, and treatment for HIV infection. The fact of the consultation, and treatment of the minor shall not be divulged to the parent or guardian without the consent of the minor, except when the minor is less than sixteen years of age or not emancipated, the minor's parents or guardian may then be informed.
- g. A minor may consent and be seen for the customary and necessary examination to obtain evidence of sexual assault and may consent to prescription for and treatment for any immediate condition caused by a sexual assault.
- h. A minor may consent to receive mental health services only if that minor is fifteen years of age or older. The professional person rendering the mental health services to the minor may, without the consent of the minor, advise the parent or legal guardian of the minor of the services given or needed.
- i. When a minor patient's condition represents a serious or imminent threat of life, limb, or sight an adult may not have to be present for such care.

2. MEDDAC Regulation 40-3-127 clarifies consent and documentation for adolescent care. Questions may be addressed to the undersigned at 719-526-7220

ROBERT GATES
COL, MC
DCCS