



NEWS RELEASE

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Heidelberg's Acute Care Clinic

Facility with different name offers same services

HEIDELBERG, Germany – The emergency room at Heidelberg Hospital on Nachrichten Kaserne became an Acute Care Clinic on Jan. 15, but the newly named clinic continues to provide high quality health care to the Heidelberg community.

“When you say ‘ER,’ most people think of the TV program with ambulances whizzing in and out, with patients dying from stabbings and gunshot wounds. But our ER mainly provided acute and routine care. In fact, less than one percent of our patients over the past 18 months have required emergency care”, said Col. Kyle Campbell, commander of U.S. Army Medical Activity – Heidelberg (HMEDDAC). As a general guideline, a medical emergency involves a risk of loss of life, limb, or eyesight.

“Due to our directed transformation and a review of our patient needs and our ability to meet those needs, we have converted to an Acute Care Clinic. Our Acute Care Clinic will continue to take care of patients who have illnesses or injuries that are not life threatening,” said Lt. Col. (Dr.) John Garr, deputy commander for clinical services.

Individuals who need emergency care should continue to call 117 or 19222 in the Heidelberg community to get an ambulance. The ambulance services will take patients to the host nation emergency rooms. The local emergency rooms have a wide variety of specialty equipment, and intensive care capability to best meet the needs of patients. The Heidelberg Hospital does not have an intensive care unit. It also does not possess specialty equipment to care for critically ill or injured patients.

“When our Soldiers or families require emergency services, the right thing to do is to send them to the nearest emergency room,” said Campbell.

“Transformation of the Army in Europe and a shrinking population in our footprint will continue to drive changes to our hospital. Over the next few months, our beneficiaries will see other modifications to the hospital services as it continues to convert to a health center,” said Campbell.

