

New medical referral procedures give patients more choice

1ST LT. ANTHONY CRANE

377th Medical Group

Today new TRICARE procedures for referrals to specialists, such as dermatology and podiatry, will affect TRICARE Prime beneficiaries of the 377th Medical Group.

These new procedures will give patients more choice in selecting which specialist they see.

Patients will still see their primary care manager at the 377th Medical Group first, who will then determine the need to be seen by a specialist.

The VA Medical Center will still be the first choice for care. If the VA cannot schedule a specialty appointment in a timely manner, the referral will go to the TRICARE network. No change so far.

Here is where the procedures change. You will receive an authorization letter from TriWest which will provide up to three choices of network specialists for you to choose from. Once you make your choice, you set up your own appointment.

And here's another important change. After you make your choice and your appointment, you must call 1-888-TRIWEST and tell them who you have selected and the date and time of your appointment.

The call to 888-TRIWEST is the final step to authorize your visit. If you do not call 888-TRIWEST to activate your authorization, there may be problems getting your claim processed and getting the specialist's notes back to your primary care manager.

These instructions are included in the authorization letter you will get from TriWest. If you have any questions about the new procedures, call the 377th Medical Group's Managed Care Office at 846-3402.



Photo by Todd Berenger

Learning about giving

Master Sgt. Terry Mest of the 377th Maintenance Group Combat Weather Team learns from Mary Waldman about Christina Kent Day Nursery. The nonprofit that provides quality child care, early education and nutritional services for children from low-income working families is among the agencies and organizations that benefit from giving to United Way of Central New Mexico. The United Way is one of many distributors of funding raised through the Combined Federal Campaign that begins Oct. 6.

Transition from cooling to heating begins Oct. 10

Civil Engineers are scheduled to begin the transition from facility cooling to heating on Oct. 10

This transition schedule addresses priority, mission critical facilities, facilities that operate on 24 hour schedules, community support facilities and then other base facilities. Engineering technicians will work the transition with each of the facility managers. All

base facilities will be completed before Nov. 5.

Contact your facility manager if you have questions or concerns on your facility. Facility managers are requested to contact the Base Civil Engineering Emergency Service call desk if the transition schedule impacts the facility operation.

For questions call Joel B. Reinhard at 846-1593.

National Fire Prevention Week Campaign observed Oct. 3-9

BY DARRYL STEWART

Kirtland AFB Fire Department

This year the National fire Prevention Week Campaign "Test Your Smoke Alarm" will be observed Oct. 3-9. It commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless and destroyed more than 17,400 buildings.

This year the Kirtland AFB Fire Department is putting the show on the road and Sparky the Fire Dog will arrive on a fire truck. Firefighters will visit schools, child development centers, youth centers and other key public assemblies.

The times and locations are below:

Oct. 4: Gibson Child Development Center -- 9:30-11 a.m.

Oct. 4: Wherry Elementary School -- 2:30-3:30 p.m. grades 3-5

Oct. 5: Shandiin Child Development Center -- 9:30-11 a.m.

Oct. 5: Sandia Elementary School -- 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Oct. 6: Boys & Girls Club -- 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Oct. 7: Maxwell Child Development Center -- 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Oct. 8: Wherry Elementary School -- 2:30-3:30 p.m. grades K-2

It is very important to think about fire prevention in everything we do, at home and work so every family member will know what to do in case of a fire.

School's practice fire safety with a fire drill once a month as well as day care centers and youth centers.

At home each family can do their part by keeping lighters and matches out of the reach of children.

Another way is by checking their smoke detectors monthly and change batteries every six months. Take a few minutes every month to "Test Your Smoke Alarm" and go over your emergency evacuation plan, something that when practiced will last a lifetime. For more information contact the fire prevention office at 853-6699 or 846-6093.



Photo by Lisa Gonzales

Col. Hank Andrews, 377th Air Base Wing commander, signs a proclamation that TEAM KIRTLAND celebrates National Fire Prevention Week Oct. 3-9. The annual observance commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 and emphasizes the importance of fire prevention activities including practicing fire drills at home and work, keeping smoke detectors operating properly and educating children about the dangers of matches, lighters and other items that might pose danger when handled incorrectly. Joining Colonel Andrews at the signing are Sparky the Fire Prevention Fire Dog and Brent Wilson, 377th Mission Support Group Civil Engineer Division director.