



# Fort Carson-MEDDAC News

## Patient recognition is the focus in February

By: Stacy Neumann, Medical Department Activity Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Medical Department Activity is celebrating its beneficiaries in February during National Patient Recognition Month. Though Army Medicine is dedicated to valuing its patients throughout the year, MEDDAC staff said this is a great opportunity to let beneficiaries know they are valued partners in military healthcare.

"We want to let them know we care. We know they can choose to go somewhere else. Our patients are why we exist," said Cynthia Brisby.

Brisby is the coordinator of the Patient Family Centered Care program. In her office on the first floor of Evans Army Community Hospital, beneficiaries can get directions, use the internet, watch television or get help researching medical issues. She is coordinating the February observance at MEDDAC. The theme is "Patients – The Heart of Army Medicine." Clinics are creating themed baskets to give away and some plan to set out coffee, cookies and tea.

Maj. Kathleen Spangler, Family Care Ward chief nurse officer in charge, said she wants beneficiaries to know that they are part of the healthcare team.

"The patient is part of decision making," emphasized Spangler. "They need to understand their care plan for the day. If they know and understand the tools, they can succeed."

During Patient Recognition Month, the medical staff also wants to help beneficiaries understand their patient centered medical home core teams are concerned about more than just when patients are sick. Providers also want to improve beneficiary health by helping them make better choices and encouraging them to engage in activity, improve their nutrition and get quality sleep.

Spangler added, of course, anytime someone does end up in a MEDDAC clinic, patient recognition boils down to just one thing.

"I want them to know they are the most important person to me today," she said earnestly. "I am here for you. I am here because of you."