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WHMC Inpatient Services begin shift to BAMC with Pediatrics

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The first of many inpatient wards has successfully moved to Brooke Army Medical Center from Wilford Hall Medical Center.

This movement is a major milestone in the implementation of the Base Realignment and Closure law that requires relocation of all inpatient services from Wilford Hall to BAMC before Sept. 15, 2011.

BAMC inpatient pediatric services began admitting April 27, with 2-year-old Pamela Joy Ayer as the ward's first patient. Pamela was born at Wilford Hall, and at 17 months was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a form of cancer.

She and her parents are "frequent fliers" in the pediatric ward due to her visits for chemotherapy and are happy to see the familiar faces of the doctors and nurses who have relocated to BAMC.

This time, they will stay for five days of treatment. Pamela's mother, Air Force Staff Sgt. Irene Rodriguez, says they like the new unit at BAMC because it is "a lot more spacious and the clinics are right next to each other."

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The Pediatric Ward is staffed for 16 pediatric patients and the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit is staffed for six patients.

Inpatient pediatrics at BAMC also has a dedicated pediatric sedation unit so that procedures requiring intravenous sedation can be performed and recovered in this area.

Other Wilford Hall pediatric subspecialty clinics have relocated to BAMC, fifth floor, East Bed Tower to support inpatient unit including Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Hematology/Oncology, Pulmonary, Nephrology, Child Neurology, Infectious Disease and Pediatric Surgery.

The Tri-Service Cystic Fibrosis Center has also moved to BAMC.

Wilford Hall Pediatric Cardiology, Genetics and Special Baby Clinics will remain at Lackland Air Force Base. The Pediatric Wellness Center will also remain at Wilford Hall.

The Labor and Delivery Unit, Newborn Nursery, and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit will remain at Wilford Hall until August 2011.