

HEALTH & FITNESS

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TAMC heart device approved, deploys to Pacific areas

New device helps primary care physicians discern between innocent and serious conditions

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

News Release

HONOLULU – A new, unique heart sound recording device, designed and tested at Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC), received Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval in August.

The “Signal” device system, used in conjunction with TAMC’s telemedicine system, will bring advanced diagnostic capabilities to six Department of Defense medical facilities in the Pacific region.

With funding from the Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center, and in collaboration with Zargis Medical, Inc., the device is the culmination of a six-year project to design a high-quality, user-friendly system for remote cardiology evaluation.

For more information, contact Lt. Col. C. Becket Mahnke at Christopher.Mahnke@us.army.mil or visit <https://www.2.tamc.amedd.army.mil/path>.

It is designed to record multiple heart sounds simultaneously, working seamlessly with TAMC’s telemedicine system called PATH (Pacific Asynchronous TeleHealth).

“We see a lot of children with heart murmurs from remote sites like Guam or Korea,” said Lt. Col. C. Becket Mahnke, chief of Pediatric Cardiology. “Most of these are innocent heart murmurs, but it is difficult for primary care providers to make that determination with confidence. These referrals of patients with normal findings generate unnecessary costs and significant parental stress.”

Congenital heart disease affects approximately one percent of all children, but more than half of all pediatric patients will have an innocent heart murmur detected at some point in their life.

Research has shown that primary care providers have difficulty diagnosing the innocent heart murmur, making the evaluation of a new heart murmur the most frequent reason for pediatric cardiology consultation.

Pediatric cardiologists, in contrast, can often



Pediatric Cardiology Technician Jill Inafuku applies the six sensors to Brice Conniff, son of retired Staff Sgt. and Mrs. Michael Conniff for acquiring cardiac heartsounds.

accurately diagnose the innocent heart murmur by examination with a stethoscope alone, thereby eliminating the need for more costly imaging studies like cardiac ultrasound.

“The Signal device, used in conjunction with PATH’s Heartsounds module, allows TAMC’s pediatric cardiologists to listen to children’s hearts without the need for travel. This improves access to pediatric cardiology care and reduces costs by eliminating the need for travel,” said Mahnke. “Also, those with suspected abnormalities can be seen sooner, thereby improving the quality of care delivered.”

Because children often have difficulty remaining still and quiet, the device’s six sensors capture a complete set of sounds in as little as 20 seconds versus the five minutes it took in the past.

“We tried several digital stethoscopes before we helped design the Signal, and they were all very cumbersome and time consuming,” said Jill Inafuku, pediatric cardiology technician. “The Signal

Clinic hours at TAMC

Adult Medicine Clinic

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.,
Friday, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sick Call: Monday-Friday, 7-8 a.m.

Family Medicine Clinic

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
and evening clinic, 5-7 p.m.
Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sick Call: Monday-Friday, 7:15-7:45 a.m.

Pediatrics/Adolescent Clinic

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
(by appointment only)

TAMC Pharmacy Hours

Family Medicine Clinic

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Closed Sundays, federal holidays

Clinic hours at SBHC

Family Medicine Clinic

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-4
p.m. and evening clinic until 5:30
p.m. (by appointment only)
Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
(by appointment only)

Pediatrics/Adolescent Clinic

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
(closed from noon-1 p.m.)

Walk-in hours for immunizations only,
8-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.

Acute Care Clinic

Hours: Monday-Sunday, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
(Current operating hours as of 9/4/09.)

system allows for quick, patient-friendly recording, with easy transfer to PATH, so the doctor can review.”

Beginning mid-September, Mahnke and his Heartsounds team will deploy six Signal devices throughout the Pacific region for routine clinic use at sites in Guam, Korea and Japan.



Send sports announcements to
community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

26 / Saturday

Kuau Rockin' Surf Competition – Due to last weekend’s weather conditions, the Marine Corps Base Hawaii and Marine Corps Community Services Kuau Rockin’ Surf Competition was rescheduled and will take place, Sept. 26 and 27, 7 a.m.-4 p.m., at Pyramid Rock Beach – surf conditions permitting.

Participants can enter in the men’s or women’s shortboard divisions and/or the longboard division. Cost to enter one division for civilians is \$25; active duty military, \$15. Add \$10 if entering a second division.

Entry fee also includes a commemorative T-shirt. Call 254-7655.

October

3 / Saturday

Volksmarching Club – Join the Menehune Marchers Volkssport Club on a 5K or 10K volksmarch (walk), Oct. 3, in Moiliili starting at the Ala Wai Community Park (2015 Kapiolani Blvd.) Participants can start anytime between 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., and finish by 2 p.m.

For more information, contact Marsha at 395-9724, or visit <http://www.ava.org/clubs/menehunemarchers/>.

This event is free, and IVV credit, if desired, is available for a nominal fee.

4 / Sunday

Ocean Safety Day – The members of the Hawaii Military Surfing Organization (HMSO) will host an ocean safety class, Oct. 4, 9 a.m.-noon, at the Piilaa Army Recreation Center (PARC) at Pokai Bay. Learn how to read the surf spot, “right of way” and local etiquette from renowned Hawaiian ocean safety expert Brian Keaulana.

The event will be followed by the chance to try stand-up paddle surfing with a team of instructors from C4 Waterman. All paddling equipment will be provided free of charge, with a valid driver’s license or military ID.

For more information or to register, e-mail Dan Wilson at dwilson27@hawaii.r.com. (For more details, see related story on this page.)