



Can You Spot the Errors in These Rooms?

By Patricia Deal
CRDAMC Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas—Three creative nurses from Carl R. Darnall Medical Center purposely staged 33 common “errors” in a patient treatment room and challenged staff members to come through to see if they could identify all of them.

While there would never be so many errors in one room in a real world setting, the idea was to show staff the many types of everyday things that could be overlooked during a daily routine, according to Kendall Rudduck, who spearheaded the exercise.

Gig rooms such as this play an important part in helping ensure healthcare staff meet established standards and remain in compliance with the latest safety policies and procedures in their day-to-day operations.

“We all need to be constantly aware about how everything we do at our jobs, from typical admin type things to setting up an exam room, has to be done with the patient’s safety in mind. It’s second nature for us, but sometimes with hectic schedules or disruptions in the daily operations something can be missed,” Rudduck explained. “This exercise is just a fun way for us to help train staff on some new compliance standards and serves as a reminder of the importance of paying attention to the details.”

Making sure everyone is knowledgeable and committed to correct and safe practices is what earned CRDAMC the Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval® in 2016 and staff is stepping up their game to achieve the high accreditation next year.

The Joint Commission, an independent, not-for-profit organization, accredits and certifies nearly 21,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. Joint Commission accreditation and certification is recognized nationwide as a symbol of quality that reflects an organization’s commitment to meeting certain performance standards. To maintain the highest possible care for its beneficiaries, the Department of Defense, mandates that all military medical treatment facilities participate in the accreditation process.

To earn and maintain The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval®, an organization undergoes an on-site survey by a Joint Commission survey team at least every three years.

“Earning the Gold Seal of Approval is an exceptional accomplishment—but it doesn’t stop there for us,” said Col. David Gibson, CRDAMC commander. “As healthcare professionals, patient safety is an integral part of our culture. We are in a constant pursuit of perfection—not just to pass an inspection—but to ensure we are prepared every day to deliver safe, high quality care to all our beneficiaries.”