

## **Retiree Corner:**

### **Space Available Military Health Care**

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Retirees and their family members may feel a residual entitlement to use Military health care facilities without regard to their status as retirees. The undeniable reality is that their access is contingent upon the availability of appointments after all active duty members and their command-sponsored dependents are served. There is no guarantee that retirees and their families will get an appointment on a desired date and/or at a desired time.

If you get an appointment, show up. When you don't show up, that's an appointment that's wasted and you may have denied space available medical care to someone else who would have used the appointment if it were available. If you know that you can't make an appointment, call as early as possible so that it can be given to someone else. Continued abuse of the space available appointment system could result in limitations applied to the retiree community as a group.

The military medical community in Korea is working very hard to provide medical care to our community and squeezing us in wherever they can. Complaining to the medical staff won't make it any better or easier for anyone.

Some retirees seem to have much greater access to military health care than other retirees. Why is that? Probably because they are persistent in trying to get an appointment; they show up on time so the pre-appointment health checks can be completed before the appointment time; and they're courteous rather than demanding.

A courteous approach will also work wonders at the Dental Clinic, the Pharmacy and at the TRICARE office.