

Texas Department of Health

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Hector Perez Garcia, M.D. 1315 Bright St. Corpus Christi, TX 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

The attached letter from the Superintendent of the Harlingen State Chest Hospital is forwarded for your information. It is paradoxical that there are unused beds in this facility yet there is a high incidence of pulmonary diseases, such as infectious tuberculosis, chronic obstructive lung disease and malignancies in this area. Probably, there are many cases which could benefit from this available care.

It has been my pleasure to attend many of the twice-a-week case conferences in the Chest Hospital. Each admission and discharge is reviewed by the staff as well as any problem cases. This ensures a continuing high quality of medical care.

The professional staff includes specialists in pulmonary disease, internal medicine, surgery and thoracic surgery. The staff is supplemented by consultants in Medical Mycology, Therapeutic Oncology, Orthopedics, Radiology, Anesthesiology, Gynecology and Obstetrics, Urology, Pathology, Dermatology, Dentistry, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Internal Medicine and Dietetics--a total of almost 50 consultants in all.

I am sure you have problem cases which could be accommodated under the guidelines cited by Dr. Allison in the attached letter.

Sincerely,

Charles B. Marshall J. M.D.

Charles B. Marshall, Jr., M.D. Regional Director Public Health Region 10

CBM/es

Attachment

423-3420 AREA CODE 512

HARLINGEN STATE CHEST HOSPITAL

BOX 592 HARLINGEN, TEXAS 78551



A UNIT OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

December 20, 1977

Charles B. Marshall, Jr., M.D. Regional Director Public Health Region 10 Post Office Box 592 Harlingen, Texas 78550

Dear Doctor Marshall:

With the philosophy of relatively short hospitalization for treatment of tuberculosis and the opening of many chest clinics over the region to supervise the home treatment of these cases and those never hospitalized, the need for beds at the Harlingen State Chest Hospital has greatly diminished.

Part of our facilities have been assigned to Mental Retardation and to Public Health Region 10 administrative offices. The hospital now is frequently under utilizing about thirty-five (35) beds.

I bring this to your attention knowing your interest in securing needed health care for those without financial resources or those in need of specialized diagnostic or treatment facilities.

Eligibility for admission here is based upon physical condition. Financial means or ability to pay is not a consideration for admission. We are authorized to admit chest diseases and all tuberculosis cases. However, once admitted we do not limit our treatment or interest just to the patient's chest disease or tuberculosis but try to take care of all medical and surgical problems. This program is backed up by a College of American Pathologist approved general laboratory with special skills in chest diseases, tuberculosis and mycology.

A fact sheet on the chronic bronchitis and emphysema special program is enclosed. We are able to materially improve the physical abilities of many of these discouraged unfortunates and would welcome the opportunity to serve more of them.

Any physician may arrange admission to the hospital with a telephone call to the superintendent or the clinical director's office.

Sincerely,

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Richard F. Allison, M.D. Superintendent

RFA:la Enclosure

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HARLINGEN STATE CHEST HOSPITAL Texas Department of Health 1 Mile South on Rangerville Road Box 592 Harlingen, Texas 78550 Telephone 512 423-3420

C.O.L.D. PROGRAM FACT SHEET

ESTABLISHMENT: Legislation passed in 1971 established the C.O.L.D. (Chronic Obstructive Lung Diseases) Program in the State Chest Hospitals.

<u>PURPOSE</u>: The purpose of the C.O.L.D. Program is to enhance the quality of the lives of persons suffering from chronic respiratory diseases such as emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

<u>TREATMENT</u>: Four phase treatment includes physical and inhalation therapy, controlled exercise with oxygen administration if needed, chemotherapy and education.

LIMITATION: Hospitalization under the program is limited to a maximum of six weeks.

ADMISSION: Admission is by referral from the patient's private physician. When discharged, the patient returns to his own physician.

ELIGIBILITY: Residents of the State of Texas.

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