

The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) has been established to assure that the medical needs of Active Duty dependents are aligned with appropriate medical resources. Spangdahlem Air Base is located in a very rural portion of the country. Subspecialty care is often limited in our authorized service area. Landstuhl Regional Medical Center is not within our authorized service area and services for dependents are not guaranteed.

It's important that our Active Duty members not ignore an official travel recommendation and bring dependents to Germany without command sponsorship. This may result in several negative consequences:

- 1) Of greatest importance, the member compromises the care and medical support available to the family members.**
- 2) The member forfeits rights to Early Return of Dependents (ERD) assistance, EFMP relocation benefits and access to DoDDs educational services.**
- 3) The member is in violation of SOFA provisions and family members become unauthorized (illegal) to remain in Germany after 90 days.**
- 4) If the action brings additional costs to the Air Force, or if Command finds the action to be an egregious violation, the member is in jeopardy of UCMJ action and cost recoupment.**

Command Sponsorship is not extended retroactively to individuals who have willfully disregarded a recommendation not to travel. This is to include circumstances where the pre-existing condition significantly worsens or a new condition is discovered. Further travel will be at the sole expense of the service member.

Medical care in Germany is world class. The treatment practices and medical equipment and supplies, however, are not always interchangeable with American options. Care that may be stable in a CONUS location may not readily transition to German management.

An additional critical aspect of the ability to support Active Duty dependents is resource capacity. Due to the limited depth of local expertise, there is a limited capacity for many conditions. When the specialist capacity is saturated, further individuals with similar complaints cannot be sponsored.

Several medical conditions have been historically established as serious challenges for successfully providing care at Spangdahlem. These include autism, significant mental health needs, chronic pain management conditions, developmental delays, complicated surgical follow ups and conditions requiring mechanical or electronic equipment.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your local Exceptional Family Member Program for guidance.

