

Veterans Trauma Network

The Veterans Trauma Network provides care and treatment to those who have been injured during their time in the armed forces.

The service is available in selected NHS health centres across England close to where people live.

Veterans accessing this service will be cared for by military and civilian clinicians who understand the nature and context of the injuries.

The Veterans Trauma Network works closely with Defence Medical Services, national centres of clinical expertise, the Veterans' Mental Health Transition, Intervention and Liaison Service, the Veterans' Mental Health Complex Treatment Service and key service charities to make sure patients have a personalised care plan in place.

As families and carers can be seriously impacted when their loved ones are injured, they can also be supported to access services that may help them.

The Veterans Trauma Network also works with veterans who have been injured, as well as their families and academic research partners, to better understand the impact of this work.

The service has been designed following feedback and information from injured veterans and their families.

How to get help from the Veterans Trauma Network

The referral process is simple. Make sure you have told your NHS GP you served in the armed forces and they can refer you by emailing england.veteranstraumanetwork@nhs.net.



Saffron Health Partnership
At the heart of the community

Military Veterans Treatment & Access to Health Services



Saffron Health Partnership

The Health Centre
Saffron Road
Biggleswade
SG18 8DJ
01767 316346

[Www.saffronhealthpartnership.nhs.uk](http://www.saffronhealthpartnership.nhs.uk)

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What is a Veteran?

A veteran is anyone who has served for at least 1 day in the armed forces, whether regular or reserve.

This also applies to Merchant Navy seafarers and fishermen who have served in a vessel when it was being used for military operations by the armed forces.

There are around 2.6 million veterans in the UK.

What am I entitled to?

All veterans are entitled to priority access to NHS care (including hospital, primary or community care) for conditions associated to their time within the armed forces (service-related). However this is always subject to clinical need and does not entitle you to jump the queue ahead of someone with a higher clinical need.

With your consent, it can sometimes be helpful for your doctor to refer you to specific service charities, such as SSAFA, Royal British Legion, BLESMA or Help for Heroes. They can often offer significant help and support, even if they do not all deliver health care.

You may be worried about discussing elements of your time in service. Please note that the NHS is bound by a confidentiality code of practice to ensure GPs, nurses and other people working within the NHS deliver a confidential service bound by law.

What do I need to do?

When servicemen and women leave the armed forces, their healthcare is the responsibility of the NHS.

It is highly important for continuing healthcare that you register with an NHS GP and remember to tell them you've served. Telling the GP practice about your veteran status will trigger the transfer of your full medical documentation from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to your GP and enable you to benefit from veteran-specific services, like prosthetics and mental health.

You shouldn't be disadvantaged from accessing appropriate health services, so it is important that you notify your current GP that you are moving, particularly if you are on a waiting list of medical treatment, so that this information can be transferred across.

Referrals

If you have served in the armed forces and are registered with this practice, please let us know as soon as possible if you have not already so that we can code your record.

We can then ensure appropriate referrals are noted with your status as a military veteran, so that you may receive priority access, should this be appropriate.

NHS Mental Health Services

Mental illness is common and can affect anyone, including serving and ex-members of the armed forces and their families. While some people cope by getting support from their family and friends, or by getting help with other issues in their lives, others need clinical care and treatment, which could be from the NHS, support groups or charities.

Some people may not experience some of these symptoms until a few years after leaving the armed forces. They may also delay seeking help for a number of reasons, such as thinking that they can cope, fear of criticism, or feeling that NHS therapists won't understand.

If you think you, or your partner or spouse, may be experiencing mental health difficulties, you can get expert help from the NHS Veterans' Mental Health Transition, Intervention and Liaison Service (TILS) or the NHS Veterans' Mental Health Complex Treatment Service (CTS).

Both of these services are available across England and are provided by specialists in mental health who have an expert understanding of the armed forces.

They'll also help to manage your care and support across other organisations.

Families and carers can find it hard to cope when their loved ones aren't well, so, where appropriate, help may be provided for them, too.
