

# Important information about NHS services for Veterans

## Are you a Veteran?

## Are you an ex-member of the UK Armed Forces?

## Did you do National Service?

A Veteran is someone that has served for **at least one day** in the UK Armed Forces (regular or reserve/TA), including as part of National Service.

Merchant navy seafarers and fishermen who served in a vessel that was part of military operations are also classed as Veterans.

## Tell the NHS that you have served

When servicemen and women leave the Armed forces, their health care becomes the responsibility of the NHS.

It's important that you register with an NHS GP and remember to **tell them you have served** to help ensure you are getting the best possible health care.

Veterans should be given a personal copy of their summary medical record when they leave the Services. Please take this to your NHS GP.

However, you are under no obligation at any time to declare yourself a Veteran and you may not wish to do so.

## Priority NHS Treatment

The national **Armed Forces Covenant** states that no one who has served in the Armed Forces should face disadvantage and, in specific circumstances, can expect special consideration.

If you have a health problem that you think is related to your service in the Armed Forces, you may wish to raise this with your GP – they may be able to get you referred more quickly for any hospital care that is needed. Please note that this is subject to the clinical needs of others. You would not have priority over someone with a higher clinical need.

## Veterans' Mental Health Transition, Intervention & Liaison Service (TILS)

This is a service for Veterans and those transitioning out of the Armed Forces with a discharge date.

The service provides a range of treatments, from recognising the early signs of mental health problems, to therapeutic treatment for complex mental health difficulties.

Your GP can refer you to this service, or you can refer yourself.

Call: 300 365 0300

Email: [Bks-tr.referralhub@nhs.net](mailto:Bks-tr.referralhub@nhs.net)

## Veterans' Mental Health Complex Treatment Service

This service provides intensive care for Veterans with complex mental health problems which haven't been resolved during earlier treatments.

You access this service through TILS.

## Veterans Trauma Network

This service provides care and treatment to those who have been physically injured during their time in the Armed Forces.

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

The nearest centre is in Oxford.

You can be referred to this service by your GP, Blind Veterans UK and Style for Soldiers.

## NHS Prosthetic Service

This service provides enhanced services to Veterans who have lost a limb as a result of their service in the Armed Forces. Veterans who lose limbs after they leave the military or while in the military but not as a result of service, can also access the service.

The nearest centre is the Stanmore Prosthetic Rehabilitation Unit.

You can be referred to this service by your GP.

## Further Information and Support

- For more about Armed Forces healthcare and the NHS:  
[www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/military-healthcare](http://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/military-healthcare)
- **Veterans Gateway** can help you get in touch with local services and has information on topics such as housing, finances and wellbeing.  
Call: 0808 802 1212 Text: 81212 [www.veteransgateway.org.uk](http://www.veteransgateway.org.uk)
- The **Military Advocacy Service** supports Veterans, reservists and their families who find themselves facing a range of health, housing, financial, family and social problems.  
Call: 0330 440 9000 Text: SEAP to 80800 [www.seap.org.uk](http://www.seap.org.uk)
- **The Royal British Legion** provide Veterans with a range of support, including financial advice, home adaptations, mobility aids, dementia care, rehabilitation courses, family breaks, and help getting back into work.  
Call: 0808 802 8080 [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)