

# NHS Forth Valley

## Taking Care of Veterans



## Have You Served Your Country?

Have you served in Her Majesty's Armed Forces? ✓

Do you have a health condition which relates to your service? ✓

Do you live in Scotland? ✓

If you can answer yes to all three questions this means that you are a **veteran** and therefore entitled to **priority treatment** within the NHS in Scotland for a **service related condition**.

## What does this mean in practice?

It means, for example, if you suffered any ill health or injury during your service that now requires treatment from a specialist, your GP could indicate (with your consent) when making a referral, that your condition is related to your time in the Armed Forces. Providing there are not other patients with a greater clinical need on the waiting list, you will be given a priority appointment.

- Priority treatment **ONLY** applies to conditions which are related to your service
- It is for your clinical practitioner to decide, on the balance of probabilities, whether your condition is related to your service
- You are under no obligation at any time to declare yourself a veteran and you may not wish to do so. You may however wish to discuss this entitlement with your GP, Dentist or Pharmacist during your consultation for treatment of a condition related to your service.

## Those entitled to Priority Treatment for conditions related to service

- All Army, Navy and Air Force personnel who served at least one day are considered as veterans for this purpose
- Reservists
- Former members of the Merchant Navy who took a direct part in legally-defined UK military operations

Guidance to the NHS from the Scottish Government CEL 8 (2008) outlines the extension of priority treatment for health conditions related to service to include **all** veterans even when they are not in receipt of a war pension, subject to the clinical needs of all patients. If any NHS staff you deal with are unsure of your entitlement, please refer them to that document.

You may prefer, initially, to discuss your entitlement with your local Citizens Advice Bureau which has an Armed Services Advice Project Officer.



## Useful Contacts

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