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**Articles and tweets to support promotion of the veterans’ mental health transition, intervention and liaison service**

**News letter / web copy – short version**

**Improving mental health services for veterans and armed forces personnel approaching discharge**

NHS England has launched improved mental health services for veterans in response to a [national engagement](https://www.england.nhs.uk/2016/09/armed-forces-veterans-mh/) undertaken last year. The service builds on the success of current provision and seeks to provide increased access and treatment in a more uniformed manner that is sensitive to the needs of patients and their families. A significant benefit of the new service is that armed forces personnel approaching discharge can also now access NHS care and treatment for mental health conditions. Available across England, patients are able to self-refer or request referral via a health care professional or service charity, regardless of when they left the armed forces. To find out more visit [here](https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/armed-forces/veterans-mental-health-services/).

**News letter / web copy – long version**

**Improving mental health services for veterans and armed forces personnel approaching discharge**

NHS England has launched improved mental health services for veterans in response to a [national engagement](https://www.england.nhs.uk/2016/09/armed-forces-veterans-mh/) undertaken last year. The views of veterans and their families have helped to inform a service that builds on the success of previous provision and seeks to provide increased access to local care and treatment across the country in a more uniformed manner. This includes recognising the early signs of mental health problems and providing access to early treatment and support, as well as therapeutic treatment for complex mental health difficulties and psychological trauma. Patients are also provided with help, where appropriate, with employment, reduction in alcohol consumption, housing and social support.

Available across England, the service works closely with the wider NHS, local authorities and third sector organisations to ensure the appropriate care is in place for patients and their families.

A significant benefit of the new service is that armed forces personnel approaching discharge can also now access NHS care and treatment for mental health conditions and thereafter into civilian life regardless of when they leave the military. Patients are able to self-refer or request referral via a health care professional or service charity, such as Combat Stress, the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes.

To find out more visit [here](https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/armed-forces/veterans-mental-health-services/).

**Suggested tweets**

Improved #NHS #veterans #mentalhealth service now available <http://ow.ly/7w7S30avafp>. Watch the @Forces\_TV interview <http://ow.ly/IbD330avanp>

#ArmedForces personnel due to leave the #military can now access #NHS #veterans #mentalhealth services in England <http://ow.ly/7w7S30avafp>

Thanks to all who helped shape the new #NHS #veterans #mentalhealth service <http://ow.ly/7w7S30avafp>

Watch the @Forces\_TV interview on the #NHS #veterans #mentalhealth service <http://ow.ly/IbD330avanp>

New #veterans #mentalhealth service announced by @NHSEngland (<http://ow.ly/WtNm30avaqL>). Now available to those due to leave the #ArmedForces