

# Briefing

11 September 2020

## Armed Forces health – COVID-19

The NHS has a duty to deliver on a number of health commitments for the Armed Forces community (service personnel (regular and reserves), veterans and their families), to meet the obligations of the [Armed Forces Covenant](#) and principle four of the [NHS Constitution](#). Our priority during COVID-19 is to ensure that those who require NHS services can access them as easily and safely as possible.

We will be sending out this briefing fortnightly to keep you up-to-date with the provision of NHS services for the Armed Forces community, as well as latest information and guidance as we move into the restore and recovery phase of the pandemic.

Thank you for your continued support.

## Latest updates and resources

### Revised Who Pays? guidance

New [Who Pays? guidance](#) has been published, outlining new rules for establishing which NHS organisations have responsibility for commissioning and paying for care. The key changes for mental health are:

- revised rules for determining clinical commissioning group (CCG) responsibility for out-of-area placements for NHS Continuing Health Care
- revised rules for determining CCG responsibility for patients detained in hospital under the Mental Health Act and receiving aftercare on discharge
- a new national procedure for resolving inter-CCG disputes.

If you have any queries about this new guidance, please contact:

[england.responsiblecommissioner@nhs.net](mailto:england.responsiblecommissioner@nhs.net).

### Flu vaccination campaign

As September is now upon us, most organisations should have started their campaigns to encourage staff to get the flu vaccine and protect themselves, their patients and their families from flu this winter. Downloadable promotional materials for staff flu immunisation are available on the [Campaign Resource Centre](#); we encourage you to start using these in your local and organisational flu campaigns if you are not already doing so.

# Care and support for the Armed Forces community

## Anti-bullying helpline now live

A [confidential helpline](#) has launched to provide support for defence personnel experiencing or witnessing bullying, harassment or discrimination. Set up by the Ministry of Defence and employee support organisation Health Assured, the helpline is staffed 24/7 by trained bullying, harassment and discrimination advisers and qualified counsellors. The advisers, who are independent from the chain of command, can provide emotional support, information and guidance to callers. The number is [0800 783 0334](#) and is free to call.