

## DEFENCE CONSULTANT ADVISOR (DCA)

This leaflet is for military personnel **only** and provides details of the role a DCA may have in your future treatment.

The DCAs are military clinical specialists responsible for providing Occupational Health input. They support the long term career interests, and give advice on proposed treatment plans for serving personnel referred to hospital.

### **Your GP appointment**

Your GP may consider referral to another primary care or hospital clinician and will discuss with colleagues the most appropriate pathway.

If they consider the treatment may have an impact on your Operational capability they may refer you directly to the UK for a Defence Consultant opinion.

### **Referral to Hospital**

If the decision is to refer you to a Host Nation Hospital, you will be contacted to arrange a suitable date and time for your appointment at the Hospital Outpatient Department.

***Please make sure the Medical Centre or Medical Administration Office have your current email and mobile telephone details.***

### **Hospital attendance**

The hospital doctor is aware that DCA Occupational Health input is required, should surgery or other significant treatment be recommended.

Once the proposed treatment pathway is known a Secondary Health Care (SHC) Clinical Referrals Manager (CRM) will liaise with the DCA providing details of your condition and treatment as necessary.

### **DCA**

Should the DCA decide that your long term career prospects may be best served by a different approach, a referral to a UK based Military Consultant may be recommended. The hospital clinician will be advised that the proposed treatment will not go ahead at that time.

In such an event the CRMs will advise your GP and also contact you to provide an update.

You are advised to then make an appointment with your GP to discuss alternate ways of managing your condition. This also provides you the opportunity to ask questions.

### **DCA authorisation.**

Within approximately 10 days the DCA may indicate that the proposed treatment should go ahead.

If so, you will be contacted by the local SHC administration with an appointment to continue your hospital treatment.

### **Sharing Your Information**

The LLP places great importance on the confidentiality of patient information. Your confidential details will only be shared with the people involved in your care for the purposes of ensuring the best possible outcome.