

CHAPTER 19

MEDICAL AND DENTAL**SECTION 4 - MEDICAL ATTENDANCE****1503. Medical Attendance.***Sponsor: Head of RAF Medical Services*

(1) Definition. Throughout this Section, the term "medical attendance" denotes the professional advice and treatment during sickness or injury afforded by a MO or by a civilian medical practitioner engaged for attendance on air force personnel. Those entitled to "medical attendance" or allowed it as a privilege may be treated under certain conditions:

(a) In quarters or at their own residences, or

(b) As out-patients at Service medical establishments.

This term includes immunisation, and the supply of medicine and surgical materials prescribed and ordered from the public stocks by the MO or civilian medical practitioner in charge of the case. It does not include in-patient hospital treatment.

(2) Dependants of RAF personnel in official quarters or residing within a reasonable distance of the station boundary may be eligible to receive medical attendance at public expense from certain RAF medical centres. The CO, in consultation with **Defence Primary Health Care (DPHC)**, is to decide whether or not medical facilities can be made available and is to notify the dependants accordingly. The CO may, at his discretion and after giving seven days notice, remove the name of any dependants from the station MO's list of patients, and is to notify the dependant of any such action. The "reasonable distance" for each particular station is to be defined by the CO in accordance with local circumstances but must not in any case exceed five miles from the station boundary.

1504. Medical Attendance at Home.*Sponsor: Head of RAF Medical Services*

(1) All Service personnel at home and abroad are entitled at public expense to medical attendance, in-patient treatment in medical centres and military secondary care units, and to the supply of surgical appliances and spectacles subject to any current restrictions which may be promulgated in Defence Instructions and Notices (DINs). Marshals of the Royal Air Force and Chiefs of the Air Staff remain on the Active List and are thus entitled to medical attendance.

(2) Dependants of serving personnel are defined for the purpose of this para as spouse, and children or step-children or adopted children under the age of 18 years who are normally resident in the household. Children, step-children or adopted children who are permanently physically or mentally incapacitated are included irrespective of age. Any course of medical or hospital treatment for a child which was started but not completed before the age of 18 years was reached may be completed at public expense.

(3) (a) Dependants registered with **DPHC** may be treated in quarters or at their place of residence, and are eligible to receive treatment (medical attendance, in-patient treatment, maternity services, ophthalmic treatment, excluding the supply of spectacles, and all necessary surgical appliances), where available to a standard equivalent to that provided under the NHS, under arrangements made by the **Surgeon General** authorities, subject to current regulations.

(b) Dependants who have elected, and have been accepted for, medical attendance from **DPHC** sources and for whom a specialist opinion is required by the MO attending the case will be referred to the out-patient department of a NHS hospital. If, for medical reasons, the patient is unfit to travel, and a domiciliary visit is required, the services of a visiting consultant under the NHS can be obtained on application to the nearest area health authority. Such application is to be made by the MO who is attending the case. The specialist will be remunerated by the NHS, and no payment is to be made to him either by the patient or by the MOD.

(c) Dependants not registered with **DPHC** for medical attendance may receive treatment in an emergency (accident or sudden illness) until the case can be taken over by the civilian emergency services or the patient's own civilian doctor.

- (4) (a) Civilians employed at MOD units and establishments, their spouse and children or step-children or adopted children under the age of 18 years who are normally resident in the household, who reside within the precincts of a RAF station may apply to be registered for medical attendance with the **DPHC** MO or full time civilian medical practitioner posted for duty at the station. If such medical attendance is desired, application is to be made to the CO who, **in conjunction with DPHC**, is to decide whether or not facilities can be made available and is to notify the individual accordingly; if accepted for treatment **the civilian employee** is liable to the other conditions of clause (2) above. Where a part-time civilian medical practitioner is employed for attendance on Service personnel at a particular station, such individuals may apply to register with him but only as patients under NHS arrangements. A civilian employed at a MOD unit or establishment, or a member of his family, who is not registered to receive medical treatment from **DPHC** sources, may, in an emergency (accident or sudden illness), be attended by a **DPHC** MO or civilian medical practitioner employed for attendance on RAF personnel, until the case can be taken over by the patient's own civilian doctor or local emergency services.
- (b) In no other circumstances is medical attendance to be provided for such civilians by an RAF MO or civilian medical practitioner employed for attendance on Service personnel.
- (5) Personnel of **visiting** - permanent forces attached to the RAF for duty in the UK and their dependants may be given medical attendance at public expense under the same conditions as for RAF personnel and their dependants.

1505. Medical Attendance Abroad.

*Sponsor: **Head of RAF Medical Services***

- (1) Serving personnel are entitled to the benefits detailed in para 1504, clause (1).
- (2) Dependants are defined for the purposes of clauses (3) and (4) as spouse and children, step-children or adopted children under the age of 18 years normally resident in the house-hold. The other provisions of para 1504 clause (2) will also apply.
- (3) Dependants of personnel posted abroad, and whose presence at a station is approved, may be treated in quarters or at their place of residence and are eligible to receive treatment (medical attendance, in-patient treatment, maternity services, ophthalmic treatment, including the supply of spectacles (subject to any current restrictions promulgated in DCIs) and all necessary surgical appliances), to a standard as far as practicable equivalent to that provided in the UK under the NHS, from **DPHC** or other Service sources subject to current regulations. Where no **MOD** or other Crown medical service is available, Cs in C, COs or Senior Officers are empowered to make local arrangements on the most reasonable terms available to provide the services. These arrangements are to be promulgated in local orders. In the absence of a Service authority advice should be obtained from the senior British **Diplomatic** representative. It would be a condition of the provision of free treatment that it is obtained under official arrangements.
- (4) UK-based civilians employed by the MOD who are posted abroad, and their dependants, where their presence at the station is approved, are entitled to the benefits detailed in clauses (2) and (3) above.
- (5) Domestic **staff (example Nannies)** are also entitled to the benefits detailed in clause (3), provided that they are of British nationality and that they were recruited in the UK and were granted passage at public expense.
- (6) Where doubt exists concerning entitlement to medical treatment under clauses (3), (4) and (5), the case is to be referred to MOD (Med (F&S)), through **DCOS Health** (RAF) HQ Air Command **and DPHC**, for clarification.
- (7) Dependants of locally engaged civilians have no entitlement to medical attendance or hospital treatment. As a privilege, however, they may be given medical attendance in quarters or at their residences provided that they are residing:
- (i) On the RAF station, or
 - (ii) Within a reasonable distance of the station as defined in para 1503 clause (2), and no additional cost to public funds is involved. Out-patient treatment will be allowed to those living outside this radius provided that they attend at a Service medical establishment at which treatment can be afforded. Travelling expenses or use of Service transport will not be

admissible in connection with such treatment (see also para 1511).

1506. Admissions to Hospital of Service Personnel.

Sponsor: Head of RAF Medical Services

(1) All serving personnel, including personnel on terminal leave (other than those who are being invalided or discharged under para 607, clause (16)(b), or who have already received their full entitlement to retention on full pay under the provisions of para 620), are entitled to treatment at public expense in **Defence Medical Group (DMG)** establishments .

(2) **Where appropriate**, they will be admitted to a **(DMG)** establishment irrespective of whether they consulted a Service medical officer or a civilian medical practitioner. They may also be admitted to:

(a) A NHS hospital, under arrangements made locally by **DPHC** medical authorities.

(b) Other civil hospitals, under arrangements approved by **DPHC**.

(3) Personnel admitted to civil hospitals under clause (2) who **desire** treatment as private patients in such hospitals, will be personally responsible for meeting the cost of, and paying to the hospital authorities, any special charges for the accommodation provided as in (a), or the whole cost of the accommodation and services provided, including the costs of the services of any practitioner or specialist called in for treatment direct under private arrangements.

1512. Medical Attendance for Personnel Living Out.

Sponsor: Head of RAF Medical Services

Serving personnel not provided with accommodation at public expense and living out under their own arrangements must, if requiring medical attendance while at home, obtain such attendance from the nearest Service unit at which a Service MO is appointed for duty or a civilian medical practitioner is engaged for attendance on Service personnel. If the patient does not reside within a reasonable distance of the station, as defined by the CO under para 1503, clause (2) the nearest civilian doctor may be visited or called in as appropriate for treatment under NHS arrangements.

1513. Medical Attendance while on Leave.

Sponsor: Head of RAF Medical Services

(1) In the United Kingdom.

(a) Serving personnel requiring medical attendance while on leave in the UK, whether from a station in the UK or abroad, are to report their sickness **(in person or by telephone)** to **the nearest DPHC** medical establishment which will make the necessary arrangements for treatment. **Where personnel are too sick to travel or are unable to establish contact with the nearest DMS medical establishment they** may visit or call the nearest civilian doctor for treatment under NHS arrangements. **Personnel are to inform their home unit medical centre that they have been in receipt of NHS treatment as soon as possible.**

(b) Dependants registered with **DPHC** for medical attendance who require attendance whilst away from their normal place of residence may obtain such attendance under normal NHS arrangements from a civilian doctor engaged in the NHS. No liability can be accepted by the MOD for any expenses arising out of treatment by a civilian doctor.

(2) **Service personnel are strongly advised to take out personal insurance for medical and hospital expenses when travelling overseas. Any charges arising for treatment received whilst travelling outside duty cannot normally be met by the MOD.** However, where Service medical facilities are permanently available in the vicinity of the area where the Service personnel are on leave, the facility may be able to provide treatment. The treatment would only be given on the basis that spare capacity was available and that the treatment could be provided within the available resources. Any extra costs incurred by the facility, would be charged to the patient; as would any treatment necessarily completed outside the facility, eg referral to a local civilian consultant or a civilian hospital. The patient would also be responsible for all charges if it were decided to evacuate him/her to the UK or elsewhere.

(3) The above paragraph equally applies to Service personnel who are posted or on detachment/temporary duty outside the UK and take leave or travel off duty in a third country. Similarly it would apply if they were to take leave before or after a period of detachment/temporary duty, even if the leave were taken in the country of detachment. Such personnel are therefore strongly advised to obtain insurance for medical

expenses.

(4) Service personnel utilising overseas leave schemes are also responsible for ensuring they have adequate medical insurance appropriate to the country they are visiting. They will no longer be provided with treatment except under the provisions of para 2.

(5) Personnel travelling on leave in **European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland** may obtain civilian medical treatment either free or at a reduced charge. Full details are given on www.gov.uk/european-health-insurance-card. Personnel stationed in the UK, travelling abroad to take leave in another **EEA country or Switzerland** and those stationed in or near **EEA countries** are encouraged to complete an **online** application to gain a **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)**. Applicants are advised to read the **details** carefully since the possession of **EHIC** cover does not remove all charges. Countries outside the **EEA** which have arrangements for UK visitors to get some kinds of medical treatment free or at reduced cost are also listed **on the website**.

(6) All reference to Service personnel should also be taken to include Service dependants, UK based civilians employed by the MOD and their dependants.

SECTION 6 - DENTAL SERVICES AND TREATMENT

1545. Dental Treatment at Home.

Sponsor: DPHC (Dental) Lichfield

(1) All regular uniformed serving personnel (except as defined in clause (2)) are entitled, at public expense, to dental treatment in DPHC dental centres, and to the provision of crowns and dental prosthetic appliances where these are clinically necessary.

(2) Reservists. Entitlement to care from Defence Dentistry can be found at DDS SOPs Annex B to Chapter 4 (LINK) (X) When mobilized or placed in High Readiness Reserve (R5 and above) all reservists are entitled to receive dental treatment in the same way as RAF Regular personnel.

(3) RAF Part-Time Reservists Aircrew & Aviation Officers. In order to permit aircrew reservists to be provided with the same level of dental service as that of all Regulars, they must be declared as entitled by HQ Air Command (AP3392 Vol 7 Leaflet 901 refers). Similar arrangements have been made for Civil Service Aviation Officers and Senior Professional and Technical Officers in Pilot/Navigator posts.

(4) Civilian personnel, including Civil Servants and Retired Officers, are not entitled to dental treatment from DDS resources.

(5) Dependants of serving personnel are not entitled to receive dental treatment at public expense except that urgent treatment for the relief of pain may be provided when such treatment is otherwise unavailable provided the Dental Officer is satisfied that all reasonable attempts have been made to obtain treatment from the civilian sector.

1546. Dental Treatment Abroad.

Sponsor: DPHC (Dental) Lichfield

(1) Service personnel are entitled to the benefits detailed in para 1545, clause (1).

(2) Those individuals confirmed by the local admin unit as dependants of personnel posted abroad, and whose presence at a station is approved, are entitled to receive dental treatment from DPHC (Dental) sources to a standard and at costs, as far as practical, equivalent to that provided in the UK under the NHS. Charges for the provision of dental treatment will be raised in accordance with current instructions.

(3) Where DPHC (Dental) facilities are not available, dental treatment should be sourced in accordance with 2012DIN01-152, as detailed below:

1547. Dental Treatment while on Leave in the United Kingdom. **Sponsor: DPHC (Dental) Lichfield**

In the United Kingdom. Serving personnel requiring urgent emergency dental treatment whilst on leave in the UK (not the Channel Islands), whether from a unit in the UK or abroad, are to report to the nearest DPHC (Dental) clinic where the necessary arrangements will be made for treatment. Where this is

impractical due to distance or other difficulty, personnel are to seek emergency treatment from a civilian dental practice, normally under National Health Service (NHS) arrangements or via an access centre. Where no NHS facilities are available, emergency treatment only may be obtained from private practitioners. A refund of NHS fees only may be claimed by the patient, on return to his unit and on production of a receipt authenticated by his unit DPHC Dental Officer. Charges, other than for emergency treatment, are the responsibility of the Serviceman. Similarly, the charges incurred for the urgent repair of a removable denture will be re-imbursed up to a maximum of £50 on production of an authenticated receipt.

Dental Treatment while on Leave Outside the United Kingdom.

- (a) Serving personnel who are not normally domiciled in the UK, if granted permission to take leave in their country of normal domicile, either from the UK or from posts abroad, and requiring urgent dental treatment, may obtain such treatment from DPHC (Dental) clinics if they exist in the country and are within reasonable distance of the patient's leave address. If there are no DPHC (Dental) Clinics within reasonable distance of the patient's leave address, emergency treatment may be obtained, on repayment from public funds, from a civilian dental surgeon.
- (b) Personnel serving outside the UK and requiring urgent dental treatment while on leave within the area of the command in which they are serving may obtain such treatment from DPHC (Dental) clinics if such exist within 20 miles of the leave address. If there are no DPHC (Dental) clinics within this area emergency treatment may be obtained, on repayment from public funds, from a civilian dental surgeon.
- (c) Service dependants and UK based civilians employed by the MOD and their dependants, if entitled to dental treatment under para 1546, may, if requiring urgent dental treatment while on leave within the areas of command in which the head of family is serving, obtain such treatment as provided in sub-clause (b), to a standard and at costs equivalent to that provided in the UK under the NHS.
- (d) Personnel on leave outside the UK or the area of the command abroad in which they are serving, otherwise than as provided in this clause, are not entitled to treatment at public expense. Similarly, their dependants and civilians employed by the MOD and their dependants are not entitled to treatment in like circumstances. Where, however, there are DPHC (Dental) resources within a reasonable distance of the patient's leave address, urgent dental treatment may be obtained from those resources and appropriate charges raised.

1548. Dental Treatment by Civilian Dental Surgeons.

Sponsor: DPHC (Dental) Lichfield

- (1) When the services of a DPHC (Dental) dental officer, or a civilian dental surgeon employed on a contract basis, are not available and it is necessary to arrange for routine or urgent treatment, the CO or MO of the station is to refer entitled personnel to a local civilian dental surgeon who will be engaged on a fee basis, this will normally be the NHS fee scale. The PDO is to advise as to the dental surgeon to be employed and the procedure for referral of patients.
- (2) In cases of extreme urgency where no DPHC (Dental) resources are available and no arrangements for referring personnel to a civilian dental surgeon have been authorised, the CO or MO of the station may send personnel requiring urgent treatment to a civilian dental surgeon. Fees within the scale currently authorised (see para 1548 (1)) will be paid from public funds.

