

VETERANS - IMPORTANT INFORMATION IF YOU ARE AWAITING A LOWER LIMB JOINT REPLACEMENT

As a Veteran, you can ask for a referral to a specialist Orthopaedic Clinic at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital where there is a specialist Veterans Clinic run by Lt Col Carl Meyer. In one case a colleague applied for a referral on 16 March, and on 3 May had a hip replacement, a total wait of just over 6 weeks. If you don't mind a few days away from the family, he assures us that it is more like a hotel than a hospital, with really good food. If you have a long wait ahead of you at your local hospital, this might be the quickest way to achieve a result.

What is it? A service for Military Veterans to have their hip or knee arthritis assessed and, if appropriate, have joint replacement surgery, a service that is led by Lt Col Carl Meyer, who specialises in such areas. Lt Col Meyer is an Army Reserve officer who has been on three tours to Afghanistan and one to Iraq. He is an Orthopaedic Trauma Surgeon with 16 Medical Regiment, 202 (Midlands) Field Hospital.

It is a service available for anyone who has been in regular military service, including national service. The service is centred on The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, NHS Foundation Trust (RJA), Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7AG. A centre of orthopaedic excellence specialising in lower limb replacement surgery. Outpatient's clinics are held fortnightly, normally on a Wednesday.

HOW TO ACCESS IT:-

You must ask your GP to refer you to the VETERANS HIP & KNEE SURGERY SERVICE at Oswestry making sure that he specifically mentions Lt Col Meyer and ask your GP to include the NHS Issue code for military veterans **AND your service number** in the referral letter.

Your records at your GP need to be annotated with the NHS issued codes for military/veterans, take photocopies of your discharges book/certificate, you will be asked for proof that you are a Veteran.

Military Medical Codes:

- 13J1 Military Veteran
- 13JY History relating to Military Service
- 13qo History relating to Army Service
- 13q1 History relating to RN Service
- 13q2 History relating to RAF Service
- 13q3 Served in the Armed Forces

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IMPORTANT:-

You should all apply to the MOD under the Freedom of Information Act for your FULL Military Service Records and your Medical Records. You should print off the form twice as you need to submit one for your service records and another for your medical records. The forms should be sent to the 2 relevant addresses given on the form. You should have done this as soon as you were discharged. It is a FREE service. There will be reams of computer print-outs of your service records which you then keep in a clip file. Your medical records will be on a CD.

<https://www.gov.uk/get-copy-military-service-records/apply-for-your-own-records>

Lt Col Meyer wants to carry out more operations for Veterans, but he has two problems:

1. Finding the patients and
2. Getting the money from the NHS.

However, the more operations he performs, the more money the NHS will give him, which means the more procedures he can perform.