



National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

PRIORITY TREATMENT FOR WAR PENSIONERS

Summary

1. This letter is a reminder about the arrangements for priority treatment of war pensioners. This follows a request by the Department of Social Security that general practitioners in particular should be reminded of these arrangements. NHS MEL(1992)58 refers.

Action

2. General Managers and NHS Trust Chief Executives should ensure that general practitioners and relevant hospital staff are reminded of these arrangements.

Background

3. A war pensioner is classed as someone who has a pension or who received a gratuity for disablement caused by armed service during the 1914-18 and 1939-45 wars and service since 1945. Merchant seamen and civilians who receive pensions for wartime injuries are also war pensioners.

4. In 1953 hospitals run by the Ministry of Pensions for the treatment of war pensioners were transferred to the NHS. The Government gave an undertaking that there would be priority examination and treatment for war pensioners in NHS hospitals for the condition or conditions for which the war pensioners received a pension or gratuity.

5. In accordance with this undertaking, NHS hospitals, including NHS Trust hospitals, should give priority to war pensioners both as out-patients and in-patients for examinations or treatment which relates to the condition or conditions for which they receive a pension or received a gratuity (unless there is an emergency case or another case demands clinical priority). Priority should not be given for unrelated conditions.

6. Referrals for treatment should make it clear that the patient is a war pensioner and requires treatment for the condition or conditions for which the war pensioner was given a pension or gratuity.

9 June 1994

Addressees

For action:
General Managers,
Health Boards

General Manager,
Common Services Agency

General Manager, State
Hospital

Chief Executives, NHS
Trusts

To be copied to
general practitioners
and Unit General
Managers

For information:
Local Health Councils

Enquiries to:

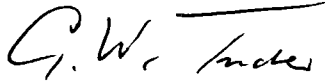
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7. NHS Circular GEN(1993)14 dated 24 November 1993, set out the position regarding travel expenses for war pensioners to receive treatment for an accepted war disablement.

Yours sincerely



G W TUCKER