



Mefloquine Single Point of Contact

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Mefloquine Single Point of Contact

On 5 Sept MOD launches the Mefloquine Single Point of Contact for current and former Service personnel who have concerns about their experience of Mefloquine (commercially known as Lariam).

The MOD takes the health and well-being of its personnel seriously and acknowledges its duty of care to provide the best possible support to them. This service provides information and signposting to a range of services to address their concerns.

Calls to the line are confidential and no personal details are retained. Lines are open between 9-5 Mon Friday (except bank holidays)

Tel: 0306 7705059

Email: SGDPHC-MEFLOQUINESPOC@mod.uk

GOV.UK: [Mefloquine Single Point of Contact](#)

What should I do if I have concerns about my experience of mefloquine?

If you are a serving member of the Armed Forces and have concerns about your experience of mefloquine and have not already sought treatment, you are advised to contact your Senior Medical Officer for health advice.

If you are a Veteran or Reservist and have concerns about your experience of mefloquine and have not already sought treatment, you are advised to contact your local NHS GP for health advice. If you have not registered with a NHS GP already you are advised to do so as soon as possible.

In addition the Veterans and Reservists Mental Health Programme provides assessment and treatment advice for Veterans (who have deployed since 1982) and Reservists who have been deployed overseas since 1 January 2003, and believe that their deployment may have affected their mental health. Further information about how to access this service can be found [here](#).

How do I find out if I have taken mefloquine?

If you are a serving member of the Armed Forces you are advised to contact your Senior Medical Officer who can review your medical records with you and advise if mefloquine has been previously prescribed.

If you are a Veteran or Reservist you are advised to contact your local NHS GP who may have already obtained a copy of your military medical records and will advise if mefloquine

MEFLOQUINE SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (mSPOC)

Welcome to the Mefloquine SPOC. Can I please ask a few questions in order to direct your call?
Are you calling on your own behalf or on behalf of someone else?

If the person is in distress or in crisis they must be directed to emergency services/999 immediately

In order to help you today I need to know whether you are:?

Still serving

Veteran

Ascertain whether the enquiry is related to:
Health concern
General Information on mefloquine
Legal/Complaints/compensation

Health:
Direct to RMO/CMP for health based discussion

General Information:
Signpost to Gov.uk website

Legal/complaint:
Signpost to complaints process

Ascertain whether the enquiry is related to:
Health concern
General Information on mefloquine
Legal/Complaints/compensation

Health:
Are you registered with a GP?
If no, encourage registration with GP.
If refusing to seek GP advice direct them to Veterans & Reserves MH programme

If yes, direct to GP for a health based discussion

General Information:
Signpost to Gov.uk website
NHS Choices
Media LTT on why this has been an issue with the HCDC
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/defence-committee/news-parliament-2015/lariam-report-published-16-17/>

Legal Information:
Signpost to Veterans UK

Thank them for calling
Log DTG, route of call enquiry and disposal.

ADVICE FOR NHS GENERAL PRACTITIONERS ON MILITARY VETERANS ATTENDING WITH CONCERNS ON USE OF MEFLOQUINE

Dear Dr,

Over the past 20 years, UK military personnel have had to operate or train in various locations in Sub-Saharan Africa where Mefloquine had been advised to be the appropriate anti-malarial at that time. Please note that, with a few exceptions, veterans who deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan were not given Mefloquine; as either for many months of the year malaria is not endemic or other antimalarial medication was used (such as chloroquine). Similarly service personnel who only deployed to Former Yugoslavia are not at risk as Former Yugoslavia is not a malaria endemic area.

With increasing awareness of the side-effects of Mefloquine, there has been media discussion on some of the more serious side-effects, in particular the neuropsychiatric ones. Many of the Service personnel will have left the military since their use of Mefloquine and some may be patients in your practice. Following a recent report by the House of Commons Defence Committee (HCDC) on the use and effects of Mefloquine with military personnel, the MoD has been directed to provide a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to help any current serving military or veterans who have concerns if they previously have been prescribed Mefloquine on military operations or exercises. Consequently, on 5 September 2016, MOD launches the Mefloquine SPOC to provide an information and signposting service.

Individuals who may have taken Mefloquine prescribed by MoD are being offered support from the SPOC. This signposts them to appropriate advice through existing resources and patient pathways. A summary of the signposting algorithm is attached, which provides advice to individuals seeking information, those with health concerns, those who wish to make a complaint or those pursuing a legal claim'. Veterans will be encouraged to register with a NHS GP (Read Code XaX3) should they not previously have done so, to enable a pathway to existing resources in the NHS should they have concerns about their health. If a Veteran attends your Practice with a history that they have (or may have) used Mefloquine in the past, this letter serves 3 uses:

1. Information for you on what advice your patient has already been given.
2. Information on how to obtain copies of their military medical records should your records not hold a sufficient summary to assess the patient's concerns.
3. Some guidance on what options may be available to you in addition to your routine management.

The information that your patient has been given is included in the leaflet attached and includes the contact details for obtaining a copy of their military medical records. Since much of the focus has been the on mental health issues surrounding the use of Mefloquine, a link is provided to the Veterans and Reservists Mental Health Programme (VRMHP). If your records confirm that your patient took Mefloquine while in the military (or you have reason to believe this is the case) and they have mental health issues that you would wish to refer for further assessment or treatment, the VRMHP can provide an assessment and, if appropriate, enable further follow-up and treatment through local NHS resources. You may find that you can provide information, reassurance or treatment within your routine patient pathways and may choose to support the veteran locally. Further information and education on veterans' health is available on the free to access e Learning for Health and can be accessed at <http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/nhs-healthcare-for-the-armed-forces/>

has been previously prescribed. If your NHS GP has not yet accessed your military medical records they can do so by following the process below.

Alternatively you can submit a Subject Access Request (SAR) to gain access to your personal data held by the Ministry of Defence. Further information about SARs can be found [here](#).

I am a NHS GP, how do I access the military medical records of my patient?

An FMED 133 - Medical History on Release from HM Forces document is a summary of the individual's Service medical history, and includes details of disabilities, immunisations, clinical conditions and of any significant treatments received. The patient has been given a printout of their most recent primary care electronic medical record, which they may choose to give to you. If access to copies of the full medical record is required please write to the appropriate address below, enclosing consent from the patient. Consent would usually be a completed Part 2 of the FMED 133 supplied to the patient.

ROYAL NAVY/ROYAL MARINES
RN Service Leavers
Institute of Naval Medicine
Crescent Road
Alverstoke
Gosport
Hants PO12 2DL

BRITISH ARMY
Secretariat Disclosure 3 (Medical)
Mail Point 525
Army Personnel Centre
Kentigern House
65 Brown Street
Glasgow G2 8EX

ROYAL AIR FORCE
ACOS Manning (Medical Casework)
Room 1, Building 22
Air Command
RAF High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Am I entitled to compensation?

There are a number of compensation schemes administered by Veterans UK on behalf of the Ministry of Defence available to Serving and former Serving personnel who are injured as a result of their service in the Armed Forces. The scheme that applies to each individual will depend on when and where you served. Further information about the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and the War Pensions Scheme can be found [here](#).

What is mefloquine?

Mefloquine (trade name Lariam) is one of a number of effective anti-malarial drugs used in many parts of the world.

The drug is licensed by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency based on the expert guidance of the Public Health England Advisory Committee on Malaria Prevention. Mefloquine is also recommended as an effective anti-malarial by international health agencies, including the World Health Organisation. For more information the patient information leaflet can be viewed [here](#).

What happens if a member of the UK Armed Forces has an adverse reaction to mefloquine?

Adverse reactions to any drug are required to be reported by Medical Officers to the MHRA in line with standard UK medical practice.

All treatments and medications have the potential to cause side-effects and adverse reactions in a small number of people. Anybody from the UK, including members of the public, can report any suspected side effects from anti-malarials via the Yellow Card scheme on the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency website [here](#).

What is the Yellow Card Scheme? Who runs it?

The Yellow Card scheme is operated by the MHRA and is the system for recording adverse incidents – including side effects – with medicines and medical devices in the UK.

The MHRA collates and reviews reports of suspected adverse drug reactions on all licensed and unlicensed medicines and vaccines; it includes those issued on prescription and those bought over the counter. Yellow Cards are used alongside other scientific safety information to help the MHRA make changes, if necessary, to the warnings given to people taking a medicine or vaccine, or to the way they are used, to minimise potential risks.

Useful links:

[Veterans and Reservists Mental Health Programme](#)

[Subject Access Requests](#)

[Armed Forces Compensation](#)

[Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency website](#)

Other useful links:

[Advisory Committee on Malaria Prevention - Malaria prevention guidelines for travellers from the UK](#)

[Veterans UK](#)

[Big White Wall](#)

[Combat Stress](#)

[Help for Heroes](#)

[Royal British Legion](#)

[Heads Together](#)

[Blesma](#)