

To: All NHS Disablement Services Centres,
Chief Executives of all Primary Care Trust clusters
Chief Executives of all Strategic Health Authority clusters

Gateway Reference: 17441

18 April 2012

Dear Colleagues

As some of you will be aware Dr. Andrew Murrison MD MP was commissioned by the Government in December 2010 to examine the future needs of veteran amputees, including how best to fund high-specification, evidence-based prosthetics services for them in the NHS.¹ In support of the recommendations of the report, the Prime Minister announced that the Government would invest up to £15 million over three years to improve prosthetics services for military veterans who have lost a limb due to activities while serving their country.²

An interim system for funding individual veteran's prosthetics is now in place. This system can be accessed by veterans with the support of their NHS Disability Service Centre. Following an assessment of need, an application for additional funding can be made to a Veteran's Prosthetics Panel who will make prompt decisions and communicate this clearly with the DSC and the veteran concerned. Funds will be released on receipt of an invoice for work that has been given prior approval. Full details of how veterans and NHS Disability Service Centres can access these funds may be found at:

<http://www.london.nhs.uk/what-we-do/our-current-projects/armed-forces-healthcare/veterans-prosthetics>

The longer-term solution for veterans' prosthetic services is under development, and we hope to have more to say about this in the coming months.

Many thanks



Claire Phillips
Deputy Director - Violence, Social Exclusion and Military Health
Department of Health

¹ Dr Andrew Murrison MD MP, *A better deal for military amputees*, June 2010

² Department of Health, *Improved prosthetics services for military veterans*, 21 October 2011