



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Health)
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Reference: **FOI 2016/05022**

31 May 2016

Thank you for your email of 27 April 2016 requesting the following information:

*"Under the FOI Act, can you advise on how many members of the armed services are seeing with Hepatitis C and B.
I would like the figures broken down by service."*

Thank you also for your email of 10 May 2016 which clarified further to request the following:

"Apologies FOI reference 2016/0427 should have reading "serving" rather than "seeing"."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. The information you requested is enclosed.

As at 1 April 2016, **134** serving UK Armed Forces personnel have had a diagnostic read code for Hepatitis C or B entered into their electronic Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) primary health care record between 1 January 2007 and 1 April 2016. Of which:

- 19 were Naval Service¹ personnel
- 104 were Army personnel
- 11 were RAF personnel

Please note, as explained under Section 16 advice in our clarification letter of 6 May 2016, it is not possible to identify from the coded information which patients are currently experiencing a particular medical condition. The codes only show the number of personnel who have had a code entered in their record for a condition. Individuals with multiple read codes have only been counted once.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note the following:

Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) has a centralised data warehouse of coded information. It is the source of electronic, integrated healthcare records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers. DMICP was rolled out in

¹ Includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines

2007 and legacy medical data for currently serving personnel was migrated across during rollout.

The following read codes have been searched for:

Read Code	Description
A702	Viral hepatitis B with coma
A7020	Acute hep B with delta-agent (coinfection) with hep coma
A703	Viral (serum) hepatitis B
A7030	Acute hep B with delta-agent (coinfectn) without hep coma
A7040	Viral hepatitis C with coma
A7050	Viral hepatitis C without mention of hepatic coma
A7070	Chronic viral hepatitis B with delta-agent
A7071	Chronic viral hepatitis B without delta-agent
A7072	Chronic viral hepatitis C
A7073	Chronic viral hepatitis B
A70A	Hepatitis C genotype 1
A70B	Hepatitis C genotype 2
A70C	Hepatitis C genotype 3
A70D	Hepatitis C genotype 4
A70E	Hepatitis C genotype 5
A70F	Hepatitis C genotype 6
A70G	Acute hepatitis C
A70z0	Hepatitis C

Please note that if information was entered as free text in the patient record then it is not available in the DMICP data warehouse and will not be retrieved using the search for read codes.

DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of extract 19 May 2016.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 2nd Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)