

Approval Required: On-Referrals for Restricted Services FAQs Bariatric Surgeons



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Scenario 1 - Endocrinology

A bariatric surgeon consults with a Defence member who has obesity-related diabetes and requires ongoing management of their blood sugar levels. Recognising the need for specialised endocrine care, the surgeon makes an on-referral to an endocrinologist experienced in managing diabetes in the context of bariatric surgery. By referring the patient to an endocrinologist, the bariatric surgeon ensures access to expertise in optimising diabetes management and providing personalised guidance throughout the weight loss journey.

In this scenario, Defence approval is required because Endocrinology is considered a Restricted Service.



Scenario 2 – Orthopaedics

A bariatric surgeon evaluates a Defence member who has obesity and significant musculoskeletal pain. Recognizing the need for specialised orthopaedic evaluation and management, the surgeon makes an on-referral to an orthopaedic surgeon. By referring the Defence member to an orthopaedic surgeon, the bariatric surgeon ensures access to expertise in addressing orthopaedic issues that may impact mobility and exercise post-bariatric surgery, improving overall outcomes and quality of life.

In this scenario, Defence approval is required because Orthopaedics is considered a Restricted Service.



Scenario 3 – Sleep Studies

A bariatric surgeon evaluates a Defence member who presents with severe obesity and complains of excessive daytime sleepiness, loud snoring, and witnessed apneas during sleep. Suspecting underlying sleep apnea, the surgeon decides to make an on-referral for clinical investigation, including sleep studies. The on-referral is made to a sleep medicine specialist experienced in diagnosing and managing sleep disorders. By on-referring the patient, the bariatric surgeon aims to accurately diagnose and assess the severity of the patient's sleep apnea. This will help guide the appropriate treatment plan, optimise surgical outcomes, and improve the patient's overall quality of life by addressing both their obesity and sleep-related issues.

In this scenario, Defence approval is required because the referral is to another Specialist.

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