

Approval Required: On-Referrals for Restricted Services Physicians



Last updated 19 June 2024



Scenario 1 - Rheumatology

A specialist evaluates a Defence member with persistent joint pain and suspects a rheumatologic condition. Recognising the need for specialised care, the physician makes an on-referral to a rheumatologist. By referring the Defence member to a rheumatologist, the physician ensures access to expertise in managing complex rheumatologic conditions.

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



Scenario 2 – Cardiac Stress Test by Cardiologist

A specialist evaluates a Defence member with symptoms suggestive of cardiac issues, such as chest pain and shortness of breath during exertion. Recognising the need for further cardiac assessment, the physician makes an on-referral to a cardiologist to perform a cardiac stress test. By referring the Defence member to another specialist, the specialist ensures access to specialised cardiac diagnostic evaluation. The stress test, conducted under monitored conditions, will assess the patient's cardiovascular response to exercise and help identify any underlying heart conditions.

In this scenario, Defence approval is required because the referral is to a Cardiologist which is considered a Restricted Service.



Scenario 3 - Audiology

A specialist examines a Defence member who presents with complaints of hearing loss and difficulty understanding conversations. Recognising the need for specialised audiological assessment, the physician makes an on-referral to an audiologist. By referring the patient to an audiologist, the physician ensures access to expertise in diagnosing and managing hearing loss. The audiologist will conduct a comprehensive hearing evaluation, including audiometry and other specialised tests, to assess the patient's hearing abilities and determine appropriate interventions such as hearing aids, assistive devices, or further treatment options tailored to the patient's specific needs.

In this scenario, Defence approval is required because the member is being referred to another specialist.