

MILITARY MEDICAL TEAM PICK UP HEALTH AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING WORK

A military medical team from Germany have been honoured in the Military and Civilian Health Partnership Awards (MCHPA) for developing an innovative system to manage and track hospital referrals among the military population.

The awards are held annually and this year attracted more than 100 nominations from military and civilian medics across the country.

It was open to military and civilian personnel who provide health and social care to the Armed Forces, their families and veterans. It recognises and strengthens the partnership between Britain's military and civilian health care workers and provides the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the many examples of high quality care.

The team from British Forces Germany Health Services in Hohne was recognised twice for their innovative work in providing healthcare for the Armed Forces, their families and veterans.

They picked up the Innovation and Service Development award where the team developed a 'Referrals Management System', to improve their interface with the relatively transient population. All potential referrals are discussed at a weekly complex case meeting, to enable peer review and clinical advice to be shared.

The doctors involved have found it incredibly useful, and it has resulted in the best possible medical management of patients. In the project's first 3 months, the system has demonstrated a 27.5% decrease in referrals to secondary healthcare compared to the same period last year.

Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans, Rt Hon Andrew Robathan, said:

"Thanks to the excellence of our people working in partnership, the quality of care available to our Armed Forces – from emergency life saving procedures on

operations to primary care at home and overseas – is quite remarkable. These awards are about honouring the best of the best, people who, often in the most demanding of circumstances, are delivering exceptional healthcare.”

Referrals Management System in Hohne Region, BFG, Innovation & Service Development Award

The Hohne Region team led on the development of this relatively simple but high-impact innovation to maintain their commitment to providing an NHS equivalent service for those soldiers in British Forces Germany.

Given the relatively transient population of GPs compared to the NHS in the UK, the team developed a 'Referrals Management System', to improve this unusual interface. All potential referrals are discussed at a weekly complex case meeting, to enable peer review and clinical advice to be shared.

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This project is already being expanded in British Forces Germany, and has potential to do the same in the NHS – the project has helped sustain soldiers fit for operations, and has shown that improvements in patient care can be combined with fiscal savings.