

Freedom of Information request 353-17

Request

Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 I would like to request the following:

1. The number of patients who have died in hospital from dehydration in the past three years.
Could this please be broken down by year, and age or age group.
2. The number of patients who have died in hospital from malnutrition in the past three years.
Could this please be broken down by year, and age or age group.

Response

Please find below data on patients who have died and were recorded with a main diagnosis of dehydration or malnutrition:

Patients with Diagnosis of E86 Volume Depletion (Dehydration)

Ageband	2014	2015	2016	Main Diagnosis Total
5. 65-74			<5	<5
6. 75 and over		<5	<5	<5
Total		<5	<5	<5

Patients with Diagnosis of E46 Unspecified Protein-Energy Malnutrition

Ageband	2014	2015	2016	Main Diagnosis Total
3. 25-44				
4. 45-64				
5. 65-74				
6. 75 and over	<5			<5
Total	<5			<5

Notes:

Extracted using diagnosis code E86 Volume Depletion and E40 to E46 for Malnutrition in any position.

Patients with Diagnosis of E86 Volume Depletion (Dehydration)

There is not a specific code for 'dehydration' as a cause of death, fluid depletion could be secondary to many things including a significant bleed as a result of trauma or rupture of a major vessel.

Patients with Diagnosis of E46 Unspecified Protein-Energy Malnutrition

Malnutrition can be seen in patients with an underlying terminal cancer and extreme old age.

Includes BGH & Community Hospital discharges, no deaths recorded under Mental Health Units

Source: SMR1 SMR4

Please note that as NHS Borders is such a small Board the number of deaths is very small, and to provide further details of deaths could allow individuals to be identified and we would be in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998. We are therefore withholding all other data under Section 38(2)(ii) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This is also in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics any number that is less than five, actual numbers and potentially identifiable information is withheld to help maintain patient confidentiality due to potential risk of disclosure. Further information is available in the ISD Statistical Disclosure Control Protocol.

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled or the decision given, you may ask NHS Borders to review its actions and the decision. If you would like to request a review please apply in writing to, Freedom of Information Review, NHS Borders, Room 2EC3, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS or foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk.

The request for a review should include your name and address for correspondence, the request for information to which the request relates and the issue which you wish to be reviewed. Please state the reference number **353-17** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 working days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Scottish Information Commissioner should be in writing (or other permanent form), stating your name and an address for correspondence. You should provide the details of the request and your reasons for dissatisfaction with both the original response by NHS Borders and your reasons for dissatisfaction with the outcome of the internal review. Your application for an investigation by the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within six months of your receipt of the response with which you are dissatisfied. The address for the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner is, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife.