

## Freedom of Information request 431-17

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### Request

I write to you with a request for information regarding Opat (Outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy) in your health board area.

1. Please give details of whether this type of care has been introduced in your health board area, and if so, when was it introduced?
2. From when it was introduced, how many patients have been treated using Opat? Please provide a breakdown of how many patients were treated using Opat per calendar year since it was introduced.
3. Please provide any estimated savings in monetary costs and beds in hospitals as a result of using Opat. Again, please provide a breakdown of these savings per calendar year.
4. Please provide any communications regarding plans to increase the use of Opat in your health board area.

### Response

1. OPAT has been used to treat patients requiring prolonged IV antibiotic therapy and whose medical condition does not require hospitalisation on an individual basis for several years with the practice becoming more frequent since about 2013.
2. As the treatment is arranged by the individual specialty and uses therapies also used in an inpatient setting there is no way of acquiring this data other than a manual trawl of patient notes and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002 and therefore we are not required to provide.
3. In our organisation administration of OPAT improves the patient experience and frees up resources to admit and treat other patients but does not directly produce cost savings.
4. No specific plans exist to increase use of OPAT exist in the health board area, though with greater demand on health services it seems likely that its use will increase.

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](mailto: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 **431-17** 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.

