

Freedom of Information request 2-18

Request & Response

- Do you refer newly diagnosed bowel cancer patients in your Health Board for testing of molecular features for Lynch syndrome using either immunohistochemistry or microsatellite instability testing?
 - Yes – according to family history of the disease
- If yes, at what stage does this testing take place?
 - Post treatment - Mostly on pre treatment, occasionally after resection.
- Is this test carried out as a reflex test i.e. automatically or upon referral?
 - Referral via Genetics Centre
- Is there a named individual within each colorectal team in your Health Board who is responsible for ensuring testing for molecular features of Lynch syndrome takes place?
 - Other (please explain) - Clinical Geneticist from tertiary centre provides periodical clinic in NHS Borders
- Do you audit diagnostic outcomes within your Health Board to ensure that patients are tested for molecular features for Lynch syndrome?
 - No
- If the guidelines that all patients under 60 are not being met, do you have information on whether there are any plans for this to be introduced?
 - No
- What are the main barriers you face to ensuring patients are referred for testing for molecular features of Lynch syndrome? Please specify.
 - Policy – Patients are referred in line with local policy.

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 **2-18** 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.