

## Freedom of Information request 327-18

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### Request

B) Thrombolysis Pathway

- To provide all information on how resources will be used to ensure there is a 24 hour/7 day per week thrombolysis pathway?
- To provide the total number of patients who would be eligible for thrombolysis on arrival at the hospital, get thrombolysed?

### Response

The Scottish Stroke Care Audit collects audit data on behalf of the Scottish Stroke Improvement Programme for all patients admitted to Scottish hospitals with a diagnosis of stroke. NHS Borders submits data to this audit. NHS Borders undergoes inspections from the Scottish Stroke Improvement Programme Team, including case note review validation. The audit includes data collection for Stroke Thrombolysis.

NHS National Services Scotland Information and Intelligence and Scottish Stroke Improvement Programme published the 2017 Scottish Stroke Care Audit Report on 10th July 2018. This report is accessible to the public at [www.strokeaudit.scot.nhs.uk/.../docs/2018-07-10-SSCA-Report.pdf](http://www.strokeaudit.scot.nhs.uk/.../docs/2018-07-10-SSCA-Report.pdf). Thrombolysis data is on page 34 to 39.

NHS Borders had 2 Stroke Consultants who cover Monday to Friday day time Stroke Thrombolysis assessments. Out of hours, weekend and public holiday assessments are performed by the South East Scotland Stroke Telemedicine Network. The combination of the local daytime and regional out of hours service ensure a 24 hour, 7 days a week, 365 days a year service.

The referral process is as follows;

- Pre-alert call from Scottish Ambulance Service for patients with FAST positive stroke symptoms to the Borders General Hospital Emergency Department while they are in transit.
- Pre-alert calls are sent to the Borders General Stroke Team and Medical Registrar prior to arrival with estimated time of arrival.
- Thrombolysis assessment starts on arrival in the Emergency Department following standardised assessment protocols.
- Unless there is a clear reason why the patient is not suitable for thrombolysis, the patient proceeds to urgent CT head scan. Urgent CT scan for thrombolysis assessment is available at all times.
- Patient returns to the Emergency Department for administration of thrombolysis if there are no contraindications.
- There are a number of reasons why a patient may not be suitable for thrombolysis including improving symptoms, haemorrhage on CT head scan and a number of other medical conditions that would indicate that the patient would be at high risk of complications.
- Decision making for thrombolysis is always performed by a Stroke Consultant either on site or via the South East Scotland Stroke Telemedicine network.
- The South east Scotland Stroke Telemedicine Network carries out the out of hours assessments for a number of health board including NHS Lothian, Borders, Dumfries and Galloway and Forth Valley.
- Patient moved to the Medical High Dependency Unit for monitoring.
- Patient is moved to the Borders Stroke to continue rehabilitation after 12 hours.

In 2017 NHS Borders admitted 174 patients with a confirmed diagnosis of stroke. Of those, 15 patients were treated with thrombolysis. The Scottish Stroke Care Audit does not currently collect data on the number of patients receiving a pre-alert call but from 15th October 2017 to 1st March 2018 during the working week there were 42 pre-alert calls. Approximately 60% of patients who were thrombosed each year have their assessments completed by the South East Scotland Telemedicine Network.

Both locally and regionally there is regular review of door to needle times, complication rates and morbidity and mortality reviews to assist in maintaining standards and improving stroke care. Local and national review of the thrombolysis data have confirmed that thrombolysis is offered as a 24 hour and 7 day service.

There is a regular teaching program within NHS Borders to maintain knowledge of stroke care and thrombolysis.

NHS Borders will continue to provide a combination of local and regional service to maintain a 24 hour, 7 day service for stroke thrombolysis in future.

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 **327-18** 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.