

Freedom of Information request 394-18

Request

1. How many patients in this health board have endometriosis?
2. What co-ordinated care is available for patients with endometriosis?
3. Are patients with endometriosis signposted to organisations who can provide emotional counselling and support?
4. Are patients with endometriosis referred/signposted to fertility services?
5. Is there written information available for patients regarding endometriosis?
6. What is the process, including tests, towards a diagnosis of endometriosis?
7. In the last 5 years, how many patient referrals have there been to a gynaecologist regarding endometriosis? Please provide the number per year.
8. How many diagnostic tests are required on average before a person receives a diagnosis of endometriosis?
9. What is the financial cost of hospital admissions related to endometriosis to this health board in each year for the last 5 years? Please provide the costs per year.
10. Are there gynaecologists in this health board with training and skills in laparoscopic surgery?
11. Are there gynaecology specialist nurses in this health board with expertise in endometriosis?
12. How many patients in this health board with endometriosis also experience mental ill-health?

Response

1. This information is held in a patient's notes and not electronically. Therefore to extract this data would require a manual trawl of all notes and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002. Therefore under Section 12 Cost of Compliance we cannot provide.
2. Patients are seen by staff in Gynaecology clinics to discuss treatment options, with the involvement of the Pain Team where needed. Selected patients are referred to the Multidisciplinary Team in Edinburgh.
3. There are no local organisations, where this is required patients are referred to the Endometriosis Team in Edinburgh.
4. Where fertility is an issue these patients are referred to the Infertility Clinic.
5. Information is available for patients in the form of leaflets:
<https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/patients/patient-leaflets/endometriosis>
6. The process for detecting a diagnosis of endometriosis consists of ultrasound scanning which is performed as part of work up, diagnostic laparoscopy is discussed with patients with possible endometriosis diagnosis
7. This information is held in a patient's notes and not electronically. Therefore to extract this data would require a manual trawl of all notes and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002. Therefore under Section 12 Cost of Compliance we cannot provide. Under Section 15 Duty to provide advice and assistance an estimate would be around 10 referrals per day.

8. NHS Borders cannot provide an average figure as this would involve a large new audit of all practice for all patients with pelvic pain and we are unable to do this within the timescale. Therefore under Section 12 Cost of Compliance we are unable to provide.
9. NHS Borders does not cost its' services at individual diagnoses level, therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this information is not held.
10. All NHS Borders Gynaecology Consultants have skills and training in laparoscopic surgery.
11. No specialist endometriosis nurses, but referrals to specialist team in Edinburgh where needed.
12. NHS Borders do not record this data, therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held.

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 **394-18** 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.