

Freedom of Information request 428-18

Request

We refer to the above and request the following information as at the relevant date:

1. Details of and documents relating to guidance issued to orthopaedic surgeons in relation to the procedures and protocols for open reduction and internal fixation in relation to general surgery, and specifically elbow surgery.
2. Details of and documents relating to the known risks involved in open reduction and internal fixation in general surgery and in particular elbow surgery.
3. Details of and documents relating to the number of incidents of staphylococcus aureus infection following surgery generally.
4. Details of and documents relating to the number of incidents of staphylococcus aureus infection following elbow surgery.
5. Details of and documents relating to the procedures and protocols in place for preventing infection following surgery, including open reduction and internal fixation surgery generally.

Response

Please find below data held at the relevant date of 21 June 2018 as per request:

1. Variable guidance is issued to orthopaedic surgeons in relation to the procedures and protocols for open reduction and internal fixation surgery. This depends on the individual surgeon. There is currently no standardised information available.
2. NHS Borders do not provide to patients documentation relating to the known risks involved in elbow fixation surgery.
- 3-4 NHS Borders had no incidents of staphylococcus aureus infection following surgery on the date in question. Within surgical areas we perform surveillance on the following types of surgery:
 - C-Section
 - Breast
 - Hip & Knee Arthroplasty and Hemi-Arthroplasty
 - Colorectal
5. Infection Control Protocols in place including for antibiotic prophylaxis. A prophylactic dose of antibiotics is given at the time of operation to reduce risk of staphylococcus aureus infection. Skin is prepared using anti-microbial preparation to reduce the risk of wound infection. Technique is carried out in theatre following universal precautions with subsequent clinical follow-up to pick-up early signs of infection.

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 **428-18** 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.