

Freedom of Information request 563-18

Request

We refer to the above and request the following information as at the Relevant Date:-

1. Details of, and documents relating to, protocols and procedures for performing a vasectomy under general anaesthetic.
2. Details of, and documents relating to the known risks and complications in relation to performing a vasectomy under general anaesthetic.
3. Details of, and documents relating to, protocols and procedures in place to limit the risk of a twisted testicle during a vasectomy under general anaesthetic.
4. Details of, and documents relating to, the protocols and procedures for radiologists reporting results of imaging to the treating specialist.
5. Details of, and documents relating to, the protocols and procedures issued to surgeons in relation to reviewing radiology reports.
6. Details of and document relating to the number of incidents recorded concerning twisted testicles during a vasectomy under general anaesthetic for the year prior to the Relevant Date.

Response

1. NHS Borders follow SIGN guidelines, therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere.
2. Please find attached below a copy of a NHS Borders' leaflet provided to patients scheduled for this procedure:



Coming in to hospital
2.pdf

A further leaflet provided to patients is 'You and Your anaesthetic' which is accessed on RCoA site: www.rcoa.ac.uk/patientinfo

3. NHS Borders follow SIGN guidelines, therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere.
4. Standard Radiology business processes for reporting are based within an electronic interface. Imaging examinations are available within this electronic interface for the radiologists and the output (the report) is available electronically to the referrers. Radiology prints reports for outpatients, in addition to the electronic system, and forwards these in the internal post to the relevant consultants. All other reports are available electronically only. Unexpected urgent findings or findings requiring urgent action will be communicated as rapidly as possible directly via telephone or urgent email to referring consultant.

5. NHS Borders use the Trakcare electronic patient management system for reviewing radiology reports and guidance is only available online through this system.
6. There are no recorded incidents concerning twisted testicles held on our electronic patient management system. This information may be held in a patient's notes but to extract this information 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 and therefore we are not required to provide.

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 **563-18** 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.