

Freedom of Information request 589-18

Request

1. Within your trust how many patients do you have diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis?
2. How many Rheumatoid Arthritis patients have had an IFR [Individual Funding Request] put in for them to have an advanced treatment (i.e. biologic or JAK inhibitor) in the past 12 months?
3. How many patients do you have diagnosed with moderate Rheumatoid Arthritis? [moderate is defined within the guidelines as patients with a DAS score of between 3.2 and 5.1]
4. How many moderate Rheumatoid Arthritis patients have had an IFR [Individual Funding Request] put in for them to have an advanced treatment (i.e. biologic or JAK inhibitor) in the past 12 months?
5. How many moderate Rheumatoid Arthritis patients have been granted an IFR request for an advanced treatment (i.e. biologic or JAK inhibitor) in the past 12 months?
6. If possible, please state the number of patients and the name of an advanced treatment (i.e. biologic or JAK inhibitor) provided

Response

1. This information is not held electronically. 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.
2. NHS Borders has had <5 patients with an Individual Patient Treatment Request in the past 12 months.
3. This information is not held electronically. 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.
4. NHS Borders has had <5 patients with an Individual Patient Treatment Request in the past 12 months.
5. NHS Borders has had <5 patients with an Individual Patient Treatment Request in the past 12 months.
6. NHS Borders has had <5 patients with an Individual Patient Treatment Request in the past 12 months, treated with anti-TNF therapy.

Please note that as NHS Borders is such a small Board the number of cases is very small and to provide further details of these could allow individuals to be identified and we would be in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998. We are therefore withholding all other data under Section 38(2)(ii) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This is also in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics whereby for any number that is less than five, actual numbers and potentially identifiable information is withheld to help maintain patient confidentiality due to potential risk of disclosure. Further information is available in the [ISD Statistical Disclosure Control Protocol](#).

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 **589-18** 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.