

Freedom of Information request 68-19

Request

Relevant Date: 07/03/2018

Request for Information – Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

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

1. Details of, and documents relating to, the protocols and procedures for assessing bunions.
2. Details of, and documents relating to, the protocols and procedures for carrying out bunion surgery.
3. Details of, and documents relating to the known risks and complications in relation to bunion surgery.
4. Details of, and documents relating to, protocols and procedures in place to limit the risk of metal work becoming loose following bunion surgery.
5. Details of, and documents relating to, the protocols and procedures for radiologists reporting results of imaging to the treating specialist.
6. Details of and document relating to the number of incidents recorded concerning metal work becoming loose following bunion surgery for the year prior to the Relevant Date

Response

1-3 All of our protocols for treatment of foot and ankle procedures can be accessed at:

<http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/commonfootandankleproblems>

Therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere.

4. NHS Borders do not hold documents or protocols. All surgeons performing this surgery are qualified and use their professional judgment to limit this happening but it remains an inherent risk during the necessary reorienting the bones of the foot. Therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held.
5. For all Radiology requests:
 - All of our imaging tests are reported, with reports going back to the referrer.
 - All reports for BGH hospital patients are sent electronically. Additional paper copies are sent to referrer for hospital outpatients.
 - For referrals from other hospitals paper copies are sent.
 - Primary care reports are sent electronically via SCI store.
 - Urgent or unexpected findings will be communicated actively via email and/or telephone call.
 - X-rays of bones/joints are usually reported by our trained and qualified radiographer reporters rather than consultant radiologists

6. NHS Borders do not have any recorded incidents of metal work becoming loose following bunion surgery in the year prior to the relevant date.

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 **68-19** 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.