

Freedom of Information request 164-19

Request

I have a Freedom of Information request related to prescriptions for opioids.

1. I want to know how many patients have been prescribed opioids in your health board since 2012. I would like this broken down into individual years please.
2. I want to know how many patients have died as a result of opioid misuse/overdose – or where misuse or overdose has been a contributing factor – for the same years.
3. I want to know how many patients have died from drug misuse/overdose generally for the same years.
4. I want to know what types of opioids doctors/health professionals are able to prescribe.
5. I want to know what conditions they can be prescribed for.

Response

1. Please find below the number of patients who have been prescribed opioids since 2012:

- 2012 – 18539
- 2013 – 19077
- 2014 – 19490
- 2015 – 19699
- 2016 – 19730
- 2017 – 19608
- 2018 – 19390

The above figures are based on the following drug treatments:

PI BNF Sub Section Description	PI Approved Name
ANTIMIGRAINE DRUGS	CO-CODAMOL WITH BUCLIZINE HYDROCHLORIDE
COUGH SUPPRESSANTS	CODEINE PHOSPHATE
NON-OPIOID ANALGESICS AND COMPOUND PREP	CO-CODAMOL
NON-OPIOID ANALGESICS AND COMPOUND PREP	CO-CODAMOL WITH BUCLIZINE HYDROCHLORIDE
NON-OPIOID ANALGESICS AND COMPOUND PREP	CO-CODAPRIN
NON-OPIOID ANALGESICS AND COMPOUND PREP	CO-DYDRAMOL
NON-OPIOID ANALGESICS AND COMPOUND PREP	CO-PROXAMOL
NON-STEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS	IBUPROFEN WITH CODEINE PHOSPHATE

OPIOID ANALGESICS	BUPRENORPHINE
OPIOID ANALGESICS	CODEINE PHOSPHATE
OPIOID ANALGESICS	DIAMORPHINE HYDROCHLORIDE
OPIOID ANALGESICS	DIHYDROCODEINE TARTRATE
OPIOID ANALGESICS	DIPIPANONE WITH CYCLIZINE
OPIOID ANALGESICS	FENTANYL
OPIOID ANALGESICS	HYDROMORPHONE HYDROCHLORIDE
OPIOID ANALGESICS	MEPTAZINOL
OPIOID ANALGESICS	METHADONE HYDROCHLORIDE
OPIOID ANALGESICS	MORPHINE
OPIOID ANALGESICS	MORPHINE WITH CYCLIZINE
OPIOID ANALGESICS	OXYCODONE
OPIOID ANALGESICS	OXYCODONE AND NALOXONE
OPIOID ANALGESICS	PARACETAMOL WITH TRAMADOL HYDROCHLORIDE
OPIOID ANALGESICS	PENTAZOCINE
OPIOID ANALGESICS	PETHIDINE HYDROCHLORIDE
OPIOID ANALGESICS	TAPENTADOL
OPIOID ANALGESICS	TRAMADOL HYDROCHLORIDE
OPIOID DEPENDENCE	BUPRENORPHINE
OPIOID DEPENDENCE	BUPRENORPHINE AND NALOXONE
OPIOID DEPENDENCE	METHADONE HYDROCHLORIDE
	CODEINE PHOSPHATE
	CO-DYDRAMOL

2. Please find below the number of patients who have been recorded as having died in the years requested of opioid misuse/overdose:

Year	Opioid Misuse/Overdose Deaths
2012	0
2013	<5
2014	<5
2015	<5
2016	<5
2017	<5
2018	9

3. Information on general drug related deaths is available publically from National Records Scotland at the following web link, therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere:
<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/deaths/drug-related-deaths-in-scotland>

- 4&5 This information is available publically at the following weblinks, therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere:

<http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/BordersFormulary/index.html>
<https://www.medicinescomplete.com/#/browse/bnf>

Please note that as NHS Borders is such a small Board the number of deaths is very small, and to provide further details of deaths 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 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 **164-19** 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.