

Freedom of Information request 446-19

Request and Response

Under the Freedom of Information Act please may I have answers to the following questions.

1. a) Have your hysteroscopists read the following statement issued by the RCOG in December 2018 - **Yes**
b) Have your hysteroscopy managers read the following statement – **Yes**

<https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-re...>

The British Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy published this statement in December 2018:

"Diagnostic hysteroscopy is a commonly performed investigation; it is safe and of short duration. Most women are able to have the procedure in an outpatient setting, with or without local anaesthesia, and find it convenient and acceptable. However, it is important that women are offered, from the outset, the choice of having the procedure performed as a day case procedure under general or regional anaesthetic. Some centres are also able to offer a conscious sedation service in a safe and monitored environment. It is important that the procedure is stopped if a woman finds the outpatient experience too painful for it to be continued. This may be at the request of the patient or nursing staff in attendance, or at the discretion of the clinician performing the investigation."

2. Are ALL your hysteroscopy patients from the outset routinely offered the choice of having hysteroscopy as a day case procedure
 - a) under GA – Y/N?
 - b) with epidural - Y/N?
 - c) with IV sedation - Y/N?

All patients are offered the choice of day case under GA or spinal (epidural would not be appropriate) or more commonly in outpatient clinic setting.

3. Please may I have a link to all the audits of outpatient hysteroscopy that your hospital Trust has undertaken within the last 10 years.

NHS Borders has no record of any audits of outpatient hysteroscopy having been undertaken in the last 5 years. This is the retention period for the recording of audits and any audits undertaken prior to this period are no longer held. Therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held.

4. Do all your hysteroscopy clinics routinely record ALL patients' VAS pain-scores
 - a) as hysteroscope passes through the cervix – Y/N,
 - b) at biopsy – Y/N?

Pain scores are not currently used, therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A this data is not held.

5. Does your hysteroscopy department send all its patients the RCOG's Patient Information Leaflet, published on its website - **No**

<https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/patients/patient-leaflets/outpatient-hysteroscopy/>

6. Does your hysteroscopy department intend to start using the RCOG leaflet – **No**

7. If your hysteroscopy department uses its own Patient Information Leaflet, please may I have a link to it?



Hysteroscopy Clinic
Patient Leaflet.pdf

8. Does the leaflet include ALL the key points listed (below) by the RCOG – **Yes**

Key points

- Outpatient hysteroscopy (OPH) is a procedure carried out in the outpatient clinic that involves examination of the inside of your uterus (womb) with a thin telescope.
- There are many reasons why you may be referred for OPH, such as to investigate and/or treat abnormal bleeding, to remove a polyp seen on a scan or to remove a coil with missing threads.
- The actual procedure usually takes 10–15 minutes. It can take longer if you are having any additional procedures.
- You may feel pain or discomfort during OPH. It is recommended that you take pain relief 1–2 hours before the appointment.
- If it is too painful, it is important to let your healthcare professional know, as the procedure can be stopped at any time.
- You may choose to have the hysteroscopy under general anaesthetic. This will be done in an operating theatre, usually as a daycase procedure.
- Possible risks with hysteroscopy include pain, feeling faint or sick, bleeding, infection and rarely uterine perforation (damage to the wall of the uterus). The risk of uterine perforation is lower during OPH than during hysteroscopy under general anaesthesia

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 **446-19** 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.