

Freedom of Information request 531-19

Request

I would be grateful for the following information about the diagnosis and treatment of patients with heart failure by NHS Borders, for each of the past 3 years (2016/17, 2017/18, and 2018/19):

1. How many people have been diagnosed with heart failure?
2. How many of those people have been referred to a specialist heart failure consultant, heart failure nurse, or heart failure team?
3. What post-discharge services are available for people diagnosed with heart failure?
4. How many of those patients have been referred to a cardiac rehabilitation programme?
5. Is there a structured pathway for onward referrals after cardiac rehabilitation to exercise maintenance opportunities?
6. What support is available for the psychological wellbeing of heart failure patients?

Where possible, please indicate whether the information provided in response to the above questions refers to patients diagnosed with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF) and/or heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF).

Response

1. Diagnosis information is not held electronically but would be available in a patient's medical notes. To extract this data would require a manual trawl of all patient records 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 do not record electronically referrals to the Heart Failure Nurse. To extract this data would require a manual trawl of all patient records 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.
3. NHS Borders provide a Heart Failure Nurse follow-up service for patients diagnosed with LVSD.
4. NHS Borders do not have a formal cardiac rehabilitation programme, lifestyle issues and exercise are advised by the Heart Failure Nurse.
5. Not applicable.
6. Heart Failure Nurses offer what support they can. There is no psychology support. Referral needs to be via GP. Heart Failure Nurses can refer to Well Being Advisor for mild anxiety or depression.

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 **531-19** 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.