

## Freedom of Information request 107-20

---

### Request

1. Does your Health Board have specialist clinics for patients who have had treatment for cervical cancer and are experiencing the late effects of pelvic radiotherapy, e.g. bowel or urinary issues (also known as pelvic radiation disease or PRD)?
  - a. If so, please give details of:
    - i. The clinic(s) name and opening times
    - ii. Annual caseload
    - iii. The proportion of patients referred direct from oncology
    - iv. The proportion of patients referred from their GP
2. Do your oncology teams have a standardised method of identifying people with PRD for referral (e.g. by asking patients the questions in the ALERT-B tool to support the clinical assessment of patients suitable for referral to a gastroenterologist)?
3. Does your radiotherapy centre ensure patients are aware of possible acute and long-term side effects of pelvic radiotherapy before they undergo treatment? If so, how?
4. Does your radiotherapy centre offer a range of materials to support with acute or late effects of radiotherapy, e.g. booklets, symptom checklist, toilet cards? If so, what materials do you provide?
5. Do your gastroenterologists and dieticians use the PRD bowel algorithm, published in 'The Practical Management of the Gastrointestinal Symptoms of Pelvic Radiation Disease'?  
[https://www.macmillan.org.uk/\\_images/practical-management-gi-symptoms-pelvic-radiation-disease\\_tcm9-300557.pdf](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/_images/practical-management-gi-symptoms-pelvic-radiation-disease_tcm9-300557.pdf)

### Response

1. No, NHS Borders does not have a dedicated specialist clinic for pelvic radiation disease.
2. NHS Borders patients are seen in NHS Lothian Gynaecology Oncology clinics. NHS Borders does not hold this information, however it may be accessible by contacting NHS Lothian, therefore under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this information is available elsewhere.
3. NHS Borders does not have a radiotherapy centre.
4. Not applicable.
5. Yes, the standard PRD protocol is used for investigation and treatment.

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](mailto: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 **107-20** 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.