

Freedom of Information request 277-20

Request

I would like information about community services delivered as part of rehab pathway for covid-19 patients recovering at home for all health and social care partnerships.

In particular, please supply me with:

1. How many covid-19 patients accessed treatment through community teams? Of those how many have undergone Graded Exercise from physiotherapy, OT or sports and exercise physicians.
2. A copy of written, agreed protocol/s for the established rehab pathway that community services adhere to for covid-19 patients recovering at home.
3. A copy of written agreed protocols for your 'Home First' post-covid programme for covid-19 patients. If this is yet to be fully established then please supply a copy of proposed protocols/process.
4. How many patients have accessed services via your 'Home First' service?
5. For all patients that have accessed any community services for covid-19 recovery at home since March 23, how many patients have requested specialist referrals? How many have been referred to allied health professionals for interventions, such as cardiology? (not including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, dietetics, or psychological services).

This should include any relevant power point presentations on rehab pathway for covid-19 patients, reports and spreadsheets, particularly where Graded Exercise or your 'Home First' programme are included.

I am interested in all relevant recorded information dated from 23 March to July 13 2020.

Response

1. The numbers of patients accessing services within the community not requiring hospital admission are not collated by NHS Borders. Therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held.
2. At present no established protocols exist within NHS Borders for COVID-19 positive patients. As with other patient groups, patients with COVID-19 are assessed in a patient-centred needs based assessment with professional clinical judgment deciding upon the best course of rehabilitation and treatment. This assessment and treatment plan takes patient dependency, complexity, frailty and patient-centred goals into consideration. Therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held.
3. As above. No written protocols exist at present due to the varying degree of presentations and symptoms associated with COVID-19. Best practice and clinical judgment are used to determine rehabilitation programmes. The Scottish Government are in the process of developing a national framework for the recovery and rehabilitation of patients with COVID-19, but this has not yet been released. Therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held.
4. Between 23 March and 13 July 2020 395 patients accessed the Home First service. These patients have been supported in a variety of ways for numerous conditions, including COVID-19.
5. This information is not gathered by NHS Borders, therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held.

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 **277-20** 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.