

Freedom of Information request 359-20

Request and Response

1. Did you suspend your MRI before biopsy service for patients with suspected prostate cancer as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?
 - b. No

2. If yes, have you now resumed MRI before biopsy for patients with suspected prostate cancer?
 - d. N/A

3. Do you currently use a pre-MRI clinical triage for patients with suspected prostate cancer? By pre-MRI clinical triage, we mean a process, often Clinical Nurse Specialist led, that determines patient suitability for MRI before biopsy
 - a. Yes

4. Has your radiology department introduced any new MRI exclusion criteria for patients with suspected prostate cancer as a result of COVID-19?
 - b. No

5. If yes, do you plan to maintain any of these exclusion criteria once restrictions to limit patients' COVID-19 risk are lifted?
 - c. N/A

6. Did you stop conducting biopsies for patients with suspected prostate cancer as a result of COVID-19 infection risks?
 - b. No

7. If yes, have you resumed biopsy services for patients with suspected prostate cancer?

Not applicable

8. Do you offer transperineal biopsy under local anaesthetic?
 - b. No – provided by neighbouring health board

9. Following an MRI scan for suspected prostate cancer, what criteria do you use to select patients for biopsy? Please include all that apply:
 - c. Patients with a PI-RADS or Likert score of 3 or greater

10. Did you delay radiotherapy treatment for prostate cancer patients as a result of COVID-19?
 - d. N/A (please specify:) Radiotherapy provided by other Health Board

11. If yes, have you cleared your backlog for prostate cancer radiotherapy treatment?

Not applicable

12. Did you delay radical prostatectomy for prostate cancer patients as a result of COVID-19?

d. N/A (please specify:) – Surgery provided in another Health Board

13. If yes, have you cleared your radical prostatectomy backlog?

Not applicable

14. To address your backlog did or are you using a protocol to risk stratify patients and prioritise patients with high-risk and locally advanced prostate cancer for treatment within 3 months?

Not applicable

15. Does your protocol apply to new patients with high-risk and locally advanced prostate cancer with the intention to radically treat them within 3 months of diagnosis?

Not applicable

16. Do you have prostate cancer Personalised Stratified Follow Up (PSFU) protocols in place?

b. No

17. If Yes, do you have a digital remote monitoring system in place for follow up?

b. No

18. If no, do you plan to implement a digital remote monitoring system for follow up?

b. No

19. Which of the following criteria are part of your follow up protocols? (please mark all that apply:)

None as yet, although c) will be available soon.

c. Patients attend a 4-hour supported self-management workshop with a group of 8 to 10 men to develop knowledge, skills and confidence to self-manage their condition. Patients do not need to attend routine appointments unless an issue arises

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 **359-20** 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.

