

Freedom of Information request 484-20

Request

1. Are you, as the local health board, responsible for commissioning all services related to diagnosis and treatment of menopause in your area? If not, then can you please provide details of who does commission menopause services in your area?
2. What services for diagnosis and treatment of menopause are available in your area? This could include specialist menopause primary health care providers within GP surgeries or in local hospitals or in specialist clinics.
3. Is there a waiting list for specialist menopause services in your area and if so, roughly how long for?
4. Have any services related to diagnosis and treatment of menopause been closed in your area? If yes, can you provide details of what that service was and when it closed please?
5. Do the individual health boards have plans to open any new menopause services? If yes please provide details.
6. What is the first line of treatment recommended by each of the health boards for women with peri and menopause symptoms? i.e. what is directed on the Formulary

Response

1. Yes NHS Borders is responsible for commissioning.
2. An email advice service is available with a menopause specialist for GP queries about management. Menopause patients who require consultations are triaged to Near Me or telephone clinic run by a menopause specialist.
3. Our menopause patients are seen in the Near Me clinic, which also has general gynaecology patients, so these waiting lists are the same. Prior to the COVID pandemic waiting times were within national targets, but now are longer. The current wait for general gynaecology patients is 34 weeks.
4. No services have closed.
5. We have no plans to open new menopause services during the COVID pandemic
6. Please note that this information is available publically in our NHS Borders Joint Formulary, therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this can be found at the following link under HRT treatments:

<https://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/BordersFormulary/index.html>

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 **484-20** 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.