

Freedom of Information request 52-21

Request

As part of a study looking at different treatment options across the UK, please may I enquire if your organisation has local treatment guidelines for the treatment of the following conditions.

- Axial spondyloarthritis
- Ankylosing spondylitis
- Rheumatoid arthritis

If you have such guidelines please could I request a copy.

Response

NHS Borders do not hold specific local treatment guidelines for any of the conditions requested above. As a 2 consultant service we do not need guidance for junior doctors to follow, and aim to tailor our treatments to the individual taking into account the disease severity, co morbidities, and patient preference, as well as national guidance around access to biologic therapies.

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 **52-21** 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.