

Freedom of Information request 172-21

Request

I am making a FOI request for the following information relative to patient/carer information and guidance and incidents of deep vein thrombosis and subsequent pulmonary embolism following surgery.

1. Post-operative guidance and information for patients/carers with particular information on VTE prevention after undergoing orthopaedic surgery and which would have been given as part of the discharge process for the years 2010, 2015 and 2020. Please provide copies of any such guidance/information for the relevant years.
2. How many patients returned with suspected deep vein thrombosis within 90 days of discharge following orthopaedic surgery for the years 2010, 2015 and 2020?
3. How many patients returned with suspected deep vein thrombosis with 90 days of discharge following all surgery for the years 2010, 2015 and 2020?
4. How many patients died from deep vein thrombosis/pulmonary embolism within 90 days of discharge following orthopaedic surgery for the years 2010, 2015 and 2020?
5. How many patients died from deep vein thrombosis/pulmonary embolism within 90 days of discharge following all surgery for the years 2010, 2015 and 2020?

Response

1. Orthopaedic patients who are discharged on extended VTE prophylaxis receive the standard Dalteparin booklet and nursing staff instruct patients on self injection; with the move to prophylactic apixaban - patients receive an information booklet and are counselled on apixaban pre-discharge. Please see the information leaflets attached:



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Response Leaflet 1.prResponse Leaflet 2.pc

2. The following numbers of patients were admitted with a diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis/pulmonary embolism within 90 days of discharge following orthopaedic surgery.

2010	5
2015	12
2020	6

3. The following numbers of patients were admitted with a diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis/pulmonary embolism within 90 days of discharge following surgery. Please note this includes orthopaedic surgery.

2010	14
2015	19
2020	11

4. The following number of patients died from deep vein thrombosis/pulmonary embolism within 90 days of discharge following orthopaedic surgery for the years 2010, 2015 and 2020.

2010	0
2015	0
2020	<5

5. The following number of patients died from deep vein thrombosis/pulmonary embolism within 90 days of discharge following all surgery for the years 2010, 2015 and 2020.

2010	<5
2015	0
2020	<5

As the number of events in some areas are very small and in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics any number that is less than five, actual numbers and potentially identifiable information is withheld to help maintain patient confidentiality due to potential risk of disclosure. Further information is available in the [ISD Statistical Disclosure Control Protocol](#).

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 **172-21** 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.