

Freedom of Information request 223-22

Request

1. Does NHS Borders currently offer assessments to diagnose Adult ADHD?

If yes, please confirm:

2. the written referral process where a patient of residing within NHS Borders boundaries wishes to be assessed for Adult ADHD under NHS Borders the assessment process that a patient residing within NHS NHS Borders boundaries should expect to subject to, when they request to be assessed for Adult ADHD under NHS Borders
3. if such assessments/diagnosis will be carried out by or made by a NHS Borders psychiatrist or will this be referred to a private psychiatrist ie a psychiatrist who is not carrying out the assessment/diagnosis whilst working directly for NHS Borders?
4. the current anticipated timelines that a patient residing within NHS Borders boundaries should expect when seeking an Adult ADHD assessment under NHS Borders ?
5. Does NHS Borders have a written policy whereby they state they will not accept an Adult ADHD diagnosis from a psychiatrist who is not within NHS Borders, ie a diagnosis made under private health care?
6. If yes: please provide a full copy this policy and refer to the specific section pertaining to this question.
7. Does NHS Borders have a written policy prohibiting GP practices that operate within NHS Borders from prescribing medication to patients who have receiving an Adult ADHD diagnosis via a private Psychiatrist assessment?
8. If yes: please provide a full copy this policy and refer to the specific section pertaining to this question.

Response

- 1&2 NHS Borders will complete an assessment and diagnosis of adult ADHD where clinically indicated; a patient will be referred via their GP to the adult community mental health team and will be triaged accordingly.
3. Assessment can take place by various professionals and diagnosis will be given by a psychiatrist. We would not refer to a private psychiatrist for diagnosis.
4. The current waiting time within NHS Borders for assessment for adults with ADHD is 2 years.
5. There is no written policy however individual cases are reviewed and would expect a report from the private health care setting to determine the assessment and review this on an individual basis to determine an outcome. This may be accepted or a request for a further assessment within an NHS setting may have to take place.
6. Not applicable.

7. All GP Practices in the Scottish Borders are independent contractors, not managed by NHS however there is a shared care agreement in place in which the prescribing of specific medications require the supervision and support from psychiatrists within secondary care mental health services. Each case is considered on an individual basis.
8. There is no written policy that prohibits GP practices prescribing.

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 **223-22** 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.