

## Freedom of Information request 2-23

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### Request

I wish to know what awareness and training is regularly given to staff in the front-line emergency departments or mobile staff i.e. at roadside/incident locations:

1. On the recognition of the signs of Malignant Hyperthermia (MH).
2. The causes of it (i.e. patient response to certain anaesthetics, such as halothane, sevoflurane, desflurane).
3. If patients' allergy information is shared between Health Boards across Scotland and if mobile staff have access to that to alert them, i.e. to not administer certain anaesthetics to a patient etc.
4. If staff are trained are to look for 'medical alert' bracelets or necklaces before any interventions.
5. If sufficient stocks of dantrolene vials are kept by the authority at hand to deal with any complications from a patient having a severe reaction, requiring it.

### Response

NHS Borders do not provide support at roadside/incident locations, so all responses relate only to the Emergency Department (ED).

1. Regular teaching on toxicology and hyperpyrexial responses take place in the ED setting around serotonin misuse. Pure Malignant Hyperthermia is unlikely to occur in the ED setting, but this is part of the teaching that takes place when dealing with patients reacting to drugs prescribed/misused. The last teaching session took place in November 2022.
2. This is included in the sessions referred to in Q1.
3. Patients' allergy information is shared between GPs and ED via the Emergency Care Summary (ECS) system.
4. Standard practice in ED is that patients are undressed and placed in a gown. This should allow for any alert bracelets, scarring from previous treatments and any medication patches that may be in place to be noticed. The type of intervention required, and type of emergency, will determine the time spent looking for these.
5. Sufficient stocks of Dantrolene are immediately available from NHS Borders theatres as part of our Malignant Hyperthermia protocol. This would be guided by the Anaesthetic / Intensive Therapy Unit Consultant as part of ongoing management to a severe reaction.

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](mailto: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 **2-23** 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.