

Freedom of Information request 273-23

Request

1. How many prescriptions for hormone replacement therapy have been unable to be fulfilled due to medication shortages? Please break down per month since January 2018.
2. How many patients who receive prescriptions for hormone replacement therapy have had to change medication due to their previous drug being unavailable. Please break down per month since January 2018.
3. How many women have been moved to hormone replacement therapy medication after being put on anti-anxiety medication? Please break down per month since January 2018.

Clarification:

Thank you for your request below. Unfortunately, HRT prescriptions are dispensed by independent subcontractors, therefore NHS Borders will not be able to provide data for questions 1 and 2. In relation to question 3, please can you provide the following clarifications so we can provide the information, if held:

- Please can you provide a list of the anxiolytic drugs of interest – there are many drugs used for anxiolytic effect at a lower dose compared to their licensed indication, therefore we require a clear list of the drugs you are referring to.

In relation to the anxiolytic drugs, I would be looking for any selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) which is prescribed. If you require further information, please let me know.

- Please can you provide a maximum time gap between when the individual was put on the anti-anxiety medicine and when they subsequently started HRT.

With regards to the timeframe, the maximum gap I would be looking for is 5 years.

Response

1. HRT prescriptions are dispensed by independent subcontractors, therefore, this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
2. HRT prescriptions are dispensed by independent subcontractors, therefore, this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
3. The table below shows the number of women who have started HRT treatment after using a Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor (SSRI) within 5 years:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	174	15	5	11	15	21
February	108	16	14	5	23	
March	106	11	7	18	32	

April	47	13	9	11	16	
May	53	13	9	17	46	
June	30	18	12	31	33	
July	26	20	8	25	31	
August	30	18	13	31	39	
September	22	16	12	26	45	
October	25	13	13	23	22	
November	15	18	9	38	38	
December	9	9	8	23	24	

Notes:

- These figures were taken on the last day of each month.
- HRT= BNF Paragraph Description: "Oestrogens and Hormone Replacement Therapy"
- SSRI: Citalopram, Dapoxetine, Escitalopram, Fluoxetine, Fluvoxamine, Paroxetine, or Sertraline

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 **273-23** 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.