

3 October 2023

Freedom of Information request 661-23

Request

1. How many patients does the Healthboard currently oversee?
2. In the past 12 months, how many patients have received an iron infusion within the Healthboard? (If number of patients is unavailable, the number of product vials dispensed would be useful)
3. Is there a particular setting where iron infusions are given? (i.e. outpatients/inpatient etc.)
4. What diagnostic thresholds are used to diagnose iron deficiency in this Healthboard?
5. Do any of the hospitals within the Healthboard screen routinely for iron deficiency before major surgery? If, yes, which hospitals?
6. Does the Healthboard recommend iron deficiency screening for reproductive aged women?

Response

1. NHS Borders oversees approximately 116,000 patients.
2. Within NHS Borders 72 patients have received an iron infusion in the last 12 months.
3. Iron infusions are given in the Infusion Room, Ambulatory care, GI/McMillan Centre, inpatient areas and the Dialysis Unit.
4. Individual tests are not interpreted in this way or in isolation. A ferritin result <15ug/L (male) and <10 ug/L (female) is consistent but is not definitive of iron deficiency. An Hb result is not used to determine iron deficiency. The ref intervals for Hb (non-paediatric) are:

Male: 130 – 180 g/L
Female: 115 – 165 g/L
5. Yes, Borders General Hospital screens all major surgery patients and those over 60 years old for minor surgery for Hb, and if low would add haematinics (ferritin, B12 and folate).
6. NHS Borders does not recommend iron deficiency screening for reproductive aged women.

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 **661-23** 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.