

Freedom of Information request 73-10

Request

- 1) What procedure(s) currently exist for clinicians to prescribe a licensed medicine that has not yet had an SMC determination in your NHS Board area?
- 2) What procedure(s) does a clinician currently have to follow for a medicine that is not on formulary but has been accepted for use by SMC in your NHS Board area?
- 3) Could you please supply a copy of the current guidance documents around prescribing items in these two circumstances for your NHS Board area?

Response

1. The procedure for prescribing a licensed medicine that has not yet had an SMC determination is set out in the NHS Borders Exceptional Treatment Policy. Copy attached with this response
2. The procedure for prescribing a medicine that is not on the local formulary but has been accepted for use by SMC is the NHS Borders Area Drug & Therapeutics Committee Approval Process for Drugs New to NHS Borders. Copy attached with this response.
3. Copies of the NHS Borders Exceptional Treatment Policy and the NHS Borders Area Drug & Therapeutics Committee Drug Approval Process for Drugs New to NHS Borders are attached.

If you are not satisfied with the way in which 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, Public Involvement & Communications, NHS Borders, Newstead, Melrose, TD6 9DA.

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 **73-10** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Office of 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 Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within 6 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.

Deborah Adams
Senior Public Involvement
& Communications Officer
12th April 2010