

If you have any queries or comments about the policy or its application to you, you should contact:

NHS BORDERS
Commissioning
Headquarters
Education Centre
Borders General Hospital
Melrose
TD6 9BS
Telephone: 01896 825523
e-mail: commissioning@borders.scot.nhs.uk

www.nhsborders.org.uk

For a copy of this information in

- large print
- audio tape
- different languages
- Braille
- BSL DVD

Telephone 01896 825523
commissioning@borders.scot.nhs.uk

B*Y S*Y



NHS Borders Patient Referrals to out-of-area healthcare providers

01 June 2014
www.nhsborders.org

What we are doing?

NHS Borders have asked all GPs, and other referrers, to send all patients requiring specialist care to Borders General Hospital.

Why?

- NHS Boards in Scotland have responsibility to plan and provide health services for the population living within their geographic area.
- The Scottish Government has recently reinforced that whenever possible, treatment should be provided within a patient's own health board area.
- During 2013/14 more than 1,700 referrals were made to NHS hospitals out-with Scottish Borders for services available at Borders General Hospital. This is not efficient, as it costs more to buy a service from another NHS Board than to provide it locally.

How are we doing it?

NHS Borders has worked with local GPs and other referrers to reduce the number of out of area referrals.

However there will be some occasions when an exception needs to be made:

- **Specialist not available.** If you need treatment or a service that is not available within NHS Borders.
- **Second Opinion.** If you request a second opinion that is not available within NHS Borders.
- **Employment.** Where treatment within NHS Borders will impact on your ability to work or job security.
- **Travel.** If you are unable to reach Borders General Hospital by private, public or patient transport, **but would** be able to reach an alternative destination for treatment

- **Continuity of Care.** Where patient has previously been cared for by a specialist out-with NHS Borders and lack of continuity would be detrimental to their care

Advantages for Patients

- While a small number of patients may feel inconvenienced the financial saving to NHS Borders from not paying for unnecessary out of area treatment is very significant. These savings will enable NHS Borders to maintain and even enhance our services for the benefit of all Borders residents.
- The Borders General Hospital generally has short waiting times.
- Borders General Hospital generally does well in external quality and safety inspections.
- There is good communication and information sharing between NHS Borders GPs and the Borders General Hospital consultants.