NHS Tayside has now considered your request dated 05 February 2019.

Extract from Request

1. Details of and documents relating to, the protocols and procedures for assessing bunions.
2. Details of and documents relating to, the protocols and procedures for carrying out bunion surgery.
3. Details of and documents relating to the known risks and complications in relation to bunion surgery.
4. Details of and documents relating to, protocols and procedures in place to limit the risk of metal work becoming loose following bunion surgery.
5. Details of and documents relating to, the protocols and procedures for radiologists reporting results of imaging to the treating specialist.
6. Details of and document relating to the number of incidents recorded concerning metal work becoming loose following bunion surgery for the year prior to 07/03/2018.”

Response

1. GPs have access to an online referral tool for assessing bunions and a summary of the information provided is appended below.
   All screening of referrals is undertaken by a single specialist foot and ankle surgeon. GP training session are undertaken to inform GPs of the criteria for intervention.
   All patients with this condition are assessed by an orthopaedic surgeon unless the referral has come via the orthotic department and not the GP.
   All patients have weight bearing x-rays of the symptomatic foot to assess for alignment and evidence of arthritic changes or other bony pathology that may be precipitating the patient’s symptoms.
   There are agreed methods of assessing the reason for presentation (pain, footwear problems or cosmetic) and for the source of pain (neuralgia, bursae pain around bunion, intrinsic OA and transfer metatarsalgia).
   Conservative measures are discussed with all patients and trialled if they are appropriate. Following discussion with the patient and a discussion of the Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMS) outcomes, patients can be listed for surgery.

2. The surgery can be carried out by experienced, but not necessarily specialist foot and ankle surgeons. More than 150 different procedures are described for the condition with only a few approaches used in NHS Tayside. They are predominantly undertaken as a day case procedure with either regional or general anaesthesia.
   The surgical preference reflects the surgeons experience and joint decision making with the patient.
   Patients are followed up by nursing staff, the operating surgeon and the audit team. The audit team monitor and record complications and administer the PROMS feedback questionnaires.
3. NHS Tayside is currently implementing changes to the way patients are informed and consented for hallux valgus surgery. NHS Tayside are planning to trial the information sheets and have developed a PROMS feedback tool that may inform the patient of their likely outcome based on their profile (age, sex, BMI, smoking). The document also reflects a consensus document produced at a round table meeting and published work on foot and ankle complaints. The risks and complications are also recorded in our PROMS dataset and reflected in the booklet. Finally, the patient can be referred to the BOFAS (British Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society) for further information: https://www.bofas.org.uk/Patient-Information/Hallux-valgus-bunion

4. To limit the risk of metal work becoming loose following bunion surgery will depend on the individual surgeon undertaking the procedure. For Severe hallux valgus (>45 deg) and for those with underlying arthritis within the joint, a fusion is considered more appropriate and this may be done with a plate and screws or with memory staples. For bunion corrections with distal osteotomies, Barouk type screws are used to hold the osteotomies. Depending on the quality of the bone and surgeon preference, patients will be provided with either an off loading shoe (Darko) or simple flat dressing shoe and encourage to heel weight bear. The details are provided in our patient information booklet (append below). Metalwork failure is unusual but we have seen screws becoming loose (even in locking plates) and bone fractures through the fixation if the foot is over loaded prior to the osteotomies healing.

5. NHS Tayside does not routinely report on elective post operative radiographs.

6. NHS Tayside collects pre and post operative PROMS data for all patients with this condition after obtaining their consent. The post operative reviews are at 6 months and 1 year (for the last 6 months we also send out PROMs questionnaires at the 2 year post operative period). All complications are collected during the acute hospital stay and by sending out questionnaires to patients at these post operative time frames. The clinical portal system is also checked for any further readmission/complications' for all patients. There have been no incidents recorded of metal work becoming loose following bunion surgery between the period 07/03/2017 – 06/03/2018.


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<tr>
<th>Document Ref.</th>
<th>FOISA Exemption Applied</th>
<th>Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td>IGTFOISA5934</td>
<td>None</td>
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Under section 20 (1) of the Act, if you are dissatisfied with the way NHS Tayside has dealt with your request, you have a right to request a review of our actions and decisions in relation to your request, and you have a right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commission.

A request for an internal review must be made in writing no later than forty working days from receipt of this response and addressed to:

Tayside NHS Board Secretary
Tayside NHS Board Headquarters
Ninewells Hospital & Medical School
Dundee
DD1 9SY

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision. The Scottish Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS

Or via the online appeal service: [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal)

If you have any queries about this correspondence, please contact:

Information Governance Team
Maryfield House
30 Mains Loan
Dundee
DD4 7BT

Telephone - 01382 424413
E-mail: informationgovernance.tayside@nhs.net

Information Governance
NHS Tayside
08 March 2019