

Endoscopy Recovery – Update for GPs

SEL providers have made **significant progress in restoring endoscopy services**. The graph right shows that SEL has already **surpassed pre-COVID levels of activity**. However, in order to **urgently reduce backlogs and waiting lists, providers must exceed this activity level by a significant margin**. But as with all other specialities during this time, the extra work required is taking its toll on staff.

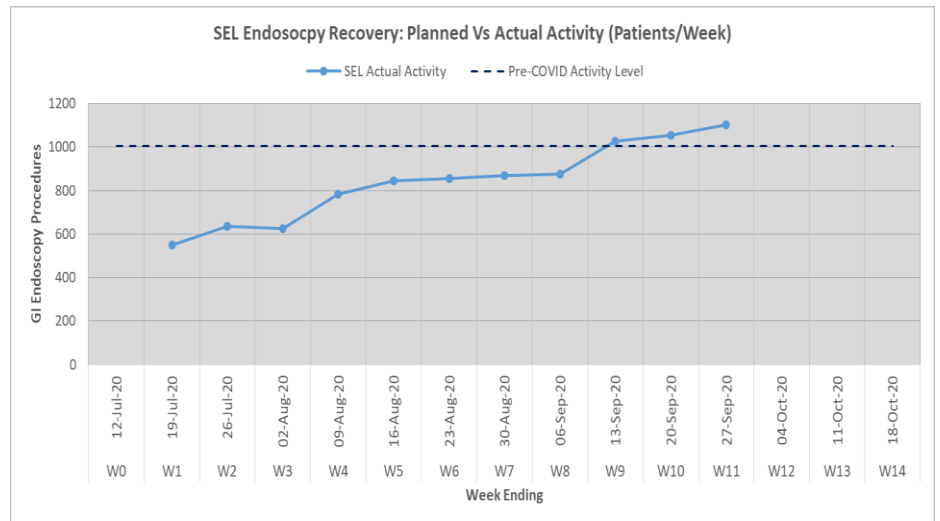


Figure 1 Weekly GI endoscopy procedures carried out in South East London. Pre-COVID levels of activity is defined as endoscopy activity conducted in July 2019 (including screening, inpatients, waiting list patients and surveillance).

We know from feedback that our teams can and will do more, but a **key limitation we have found is the amount of time our nursing teams are spending on each referral before we can book the patient a slot**.

We can improve both staff and the patient experience with your help.

Please could you follow the guidance below when making a referral

Please Do

- ✓ Check if your patient has had a recent endoscopy before referring and advise accessible through Local Care Record/Connect Care (*include date reported*);
- ✓ Ensure the patient has had a recent FBC, U & E's and ferritin and include results with referral
- ✓ Ensure the patient's anticoagulation status information is complete
- ✓ Document your patients co-morbidities (including cardiac devices)
- ✓ Ensure the patient is fully aware that they have been referred to be assessed for an invasive endoscopy procedure
- ✓ Ask us for advice if you are unsure (advice & guidance or consultant connect)

Please Don't

- ✗ Forget to check the patient's contact details are correct and up to date (including phone no.)
- ✗ Forget to conduct FIT for lower GI referrals and include the result on referral
- ✗ Forget to fully complete clinical details section on upper GI referrals
- ✗ Forget to document if the patient is confused, has dementia, needs assistance communicating or mobilising etc.