

JAG

JOINT ADVISORY GROUP ON GASTROINTESTINAL ENDOSCOPY

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Dear Colleague

It has been a year since I wrote about unprecedented change in the world of UK endoscopy, initiated by a widespread desire to improve services and deliver bowel cancer screening, in the wake of several national audits of practice. Revalidation, with its twin components of generic re-licensing for all, and specialist recertification draws nearer. The new JAG website offers a resource for trainees and trainers, has global viewing, and will develop further.

The JAG Accreditation of endoscopy units, now a systematic evaluation by on-site visits, is well underway, and as I write over 90 units are fully or provisionally accredited. As well as being eligible for bowel cancer screening, accredited units have changed to the benefit of patients, endoscopists, unit staff, and trainees. Physical rebuilds, modern equipment, safe decontamination, and high quality audits have resulted, and even new units in some instances.

The Visits process has continued to be refined, as has the JAG Visits website and its functionality. Several more training events have been held for our assessors. Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland have committed to the unit accreditation process, and a parallel programme of assessor training and visits is commencing. Highly significantly, the independent sector is also keen to be involved, and the first pilot visits have recently been completed. We believe that it will take another two years to complete all NHS accreditation visits, and another year or two for the independent sector.

This JAG Visits web support tool aims to make accreditation and the site visit easier for all concerned— units, assessors, and the JAG - to understand requirements, process, and progress through accreditation. It automatically links with and downloads your GRS data; it will provide you with a timeline of events approaching the visit, and following it; it hosts a check-list for units to assist in preparation; and it provides assessors and the JAG office with confidential access to your data in advance of the visit, as well as links to the most up-to-date guidance and standards. There is no doubt that preparing for accreditation brings a lot of work, but it also has resulted in huge changes for the better in many units, with a fresh focus on endoscopy, and new investment in services. I hope you find this Support tool facilitates these processes.



Roger Barton
Chair of JAG

Acknowledgements
Visits Working Group

