

JAG

Joint Advisory Group
on GI Endoscopy



BRITISH SOCIETY OF
GASTROENTEROLOGY

3 St Andrews Place
Regent's Park
London NW1 4LB

T 020 7935 3150
F 020 7487 3734
www.bsg.org.uk

Dear Colleagues,

We have been receiving many requests for clarification around the BSG-JAG guidance for Endoscopy service provision, especially around the guidance that FIT+ bowel cancer screening colonoscopy is paused immediately.

We write this reflecting the consensus view of the BSG Executive Team and JAG. It is clear from information from our colleagues in China and Italy, that we must do everything possible, not only to protect patients and staff, but as part of the global strategy to limit spread of COVID-19 throughout our populations. This is consistent with the additional Government restrictions announced tonight.

Both BSG and JAG wish to support the devolved administrations and align with National Government advice. However, pending the confirmation of that advice we are jointly recommending with JAG that

- ***ALL non-emergency endoscopy stops immediately***
- All the bowel screening programmes including for those patients who are already FIT+ and awaiting colonoscopy, ***are PAUSED immediately***, pending further national advice

It is currently our view that patients within screening programmes will need virtual triage on a case by case basis. This may result in deferment of investigation. More detailed guidance on this will be produced but not until we can establish consensus from the devolved administrations.

This holding advice is designed to protect both service personnel and patients alike whilst maintaining our commitment to a national approach.

Units around the UK are already having to make difficult decisions in isolation due to the pressures of COVID-19 locally.

This guidance may well change very quickly and updates will be posted regularly.

Regards,



Ian Penman

Vice-President Endoscopy, BSG



Cathryn Edwards

President, BSG



Mark Coleman

Chair, JAG Endoscopy



Alastair McKinlay

President Elect, BSG