

GP Service Briefing

Community Endoscopy Service at Braintree Community Hospital



What is it?

- Direct access community based **gastroscopy** (mostly transnasal), **flexible sigmoidoscopy** and **colonoscopy**.
- Waiting times 2-3 weeks, daily sessions and 16% cheaper than national tariff.
- Integrated with secondary care multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) for onward referral.
- Provides additional capacity.

Benefits to patients

- JAG Accredited purpose-built unit
- Free parking and good access
- Shorter waiting times
- Very high levels of patient satisfaction



What's included?

Lower GI conditions

- Persistent diarrhoea with or without bleeding
- Anal symptoms/rectal bleeding
- Abdominal pain
- Persistent change in bowel habit
- Surveillance of long term conditions and polyp disease
- Unexplained anaemia

Upper GI conditions

- Patients who have resistant H.pylori infection and/or worsening dyspepsia in spite of appropriate treatment
- Post-treatment (6-8 weeks) for gastric or oesophageal ulcer and bleeding duodenal ulcer
- Coeliac disease for confirmatory biopsy
- Barrett's oesophagus surveillance
- Follow up of oesophageal and gastric ulcers
- Unexplained anaemia
- Dyspepsia
- Reflux symptoms, where appropriate
- Patients 6 weeks after oesophageal ulceration or histological evidence of dysplasia

Diagnostic Endoscopy

- Transnasal endoscopy (including biopsy)
- Oral upper endoscopy (including biopsy)
- Flexible sigmoidoscopy (including biopsy and polypectomy)
- Colonoscopy (including biopsy and polypectomy)

Therapeutic Endoscopy

- Polypectomy including tattooing

What's excluded?

- Significant acute GI bleeding - immediate referral to secondary care
- Patient barred from NHS services
- Under 18 years of age
- Patients over 220kgs weight
- ASA unstable 3,4 or 5

The provider 'InHealth Endoscopy'

- Founded by a GP and with a full understanding of the needs of primary care. Pioneered community based endoscopy from 2004.
- Now runs 11 dedicated units delivering over 25,000 'scopes per annum and initiatives to reduce waiting lists.
- Quality features:
 - JAG Accredited unit - the gold standard from the Joint Advisory Group for Endoscopy.
 - Achieves high scores (A and B) on the Global Rating Scale.
 - All endoscopists training to British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG) standards.
 - Pioneered the use of transnasal gastroscopy which reduces sedation rates and generates high patient satisfaction.

How to refer?

- Referral forms can be emailed to the unit on bch.endoscopy@nhs.net
- All referrals are triaged by endoscopists to ensure they are clinically appropriate.

Reporting

- If no suspected serious pathology found report will be sent back to the practice by NHS email on the day of the scope. If relevant the endoscopists will provide management advice and arrange follow ups.
- If suspected pathology is found during the procedure, the endoscopists will advise the patient and contact the GP to make a two week referral to the patient's choice of hospital.
- If serious pathology is found at histology the patient will be given an appointment at the next session and then referred to the hospital of their choice on a two week wait.
- For those patients requiring follow up e.g. patients with polyps, the service will actively manage their surveillance in accordance with BSG guidelines

Contact details

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Email referrals/queries: bch.endoscopy@nhs.net