



Endoscopy outsourcing and Insourcing position statement

Introduction

The JAG wrote to all NHS endoscopy units in May 2014 to inform them that from 1 April 2015, the JAG will expect accredited NHS endoscopy units to only outsource any part of their service to external providers that are JAG accredited. This is to ensure that patients always receive the same high standards of quality care irrespective of their provider or setting.

Following discussions with NHS endoscopy units and at the recent QA of Units Working Group it has been agreed that units will have a further year to make the transition.

It should be noted that responsibility for disclosure of outsourcing and insourcing rests predominantly with the endoscopy unit.

Implementation of the outsourcing policy

1. From 1 April 2015, accredited NHS endoscopy units that outsource to an external provider that has started on the accreditation pathway (is signed up to JAG and participating in the GRS or has a JAG visit booked) will retain full JAG accreditation for up to a maximum of one year, during which the external provider must have an agreed date for their JAG assessment or be JAG accredited.
2. From 1 April 2016 accredited endoscopy units that outsource to an external provider that is not JAG accredited or participating in the accreditation pathway will see their JAG accreditation status move to "*Assessed: Improvements required*" for a maximum period of six months.
3. At the end of the deferred six month period if the endoscopy unit is still outsourcing to an external provider that is not JAG accredited or participating in the accreditation pathway with a planned assessment date the endoscopy unit will move to a status of "*Accreditation not awarded*".
4. At the end of the six months deferral period if the external provider being outsourced to gains full JAG accreditation the NHS endoscopy unit will move to full accreditation status of "*Assessed: Criteria met*".
5. NHS endoscopy units will be expected to self-report their outsourcing and insourcing position to JAG at any point during the year, but will be required to inform the JAG of their outsourcing and insourcing position during their annual report card submission.
6. NHS endoscopy units undergoing JAG assessments must make clear their outsourcing and insourcing position on their accreditation checklist.

Insourcing

Endoscopy units using other endoscopists or companies to provide a service during evenings and weekends must have clear governance arrangements in place to avoid adverse incidents.



JAG Position Statement

As a minimum, the JAG expects a senior clinician to oversee the quality of the endoscopists contracted to provide the service. This can be via an initial review of KPIs and then continued quality assurance by performance data as well as the presence of a senior endoscopy nurse during the running of lists. This will ensure that governance and quality are not compromised.