

Endoscopy services in Queensland public hospitals are performed on an elective or emergency basis for diagnostic and/or therapeutic reasons. Endoscopic procedures are not limited to colonoscopy procedures and cover a range of other procedures including cystoscopies, colposcopies, bronchoscopies and arthroscopies to name a few. Endoscopic procedures may be delivered in operating theatres as an admitted inpatient or in dedicated endoscopic suites on a non-admitted basis.

To gain an understanding of the unmet demand for gastrointestinal endoscopic procedures in public hospitals in Queensland, Hospital and Health Services were requested to complete a gastrointestinal endoscopy service waitlist and surveillance snapshot audit on 12 February 2014 for reporting to the Department of Health by 14 February 2014. Only patients who were waiting for a gastrointestinal endoscopic procedure were included in the audit – that is, patients waiting for a colonoscopy, gastroscopy, colonoscopy and gastroscopy (dual procedure), ERCP, flexible sigmoidoscopy, capsule endoscopy, enteroscopy, endoscopic ultrasound and manometry.

As at 12 February 2014, there were 14,768 people waiting for a gastrointestinal-related outpatient consultation (includes patients waiting to be seen in gastroenterology, hepatology and National Bowel Cancer Screening Program outpatient clinics). As at 12 February 2014, there were 16,187 patients waiting for a gastrointestinal endoscopic procedure (to be delivered on an admitted or non-admitted basis).

The number of patients waiting for a surveillance colonoscopy (i.e. a colonoscopy repeated in patients where pathology has been previously been detected and ongoing monitoring is clinically indicated to prevent further morbidity and/or mortality) between 12 February 2014 and 30 June 2014 is 2,607. The number of patients that will require a surveillance colonoscopy between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015 as of 12 February 2014 is 2,901.

The table below provides the figures from Hospital and Health Services for patients waiting for a gastrointestinal endoscopic-related outpatient consultation and those waiting for a gastrointestinal endoscopic procedure as at 12 February 2014.

Hospital and Health Service	Total number of ready for care patients waiting for an outpatient consult	Total number of patients waiting for a non-admitted procedure	Total number of patients waiting for an admitted procedure
Cairns	724	869	18
Central QLD	461	203	379
Children's	99	0	110
Darling Downs	286	2175	169
Gold Coast	0	1229	0
Mackay	301	0	379
Mater	309	304	4
Metro North	4148	1890	35
Metro South	6113	3575	741
North West	4	0	135
South West	96	0	50
Stanthorpe	20	10	0
Sunshine Coast	195	1461	29
Townsville	604	590	0
West Moreton	1309	0	1531
Wide Bay	99	280	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>14768</b>	<b>12586</b>	<b>3601</b>

RTI REQUEST