

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 6863

Please reply to:
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Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to FEES (fiberoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing) assessments.

You asked:

- 1. Please can you tell me whether your trust completes FEES (fiberoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing) assessments within the speech and language therapy department?*
- 2. If so, on average, how many inpatient FEES assessments are completed per year and how many outpatient assessments are completed per year?*

Trust response:

1. We do have a FEES service on both our sites, which performs both inpatient and outpatient FEES. We have successfully secured funding for three stacks over the past three years, which are used in a variety of ways across acute, stroke, ITU and Head & Neck oncology. One stack is also used jointly with ENT in the joint voice clinic as it is also fitted with stroboscopy. Our service is still getting established, and has been hugely impacted by the limitations of the pandemic. All scoping stopped March-August 2020, and outpatient services are only just being reset. So, our figures are mainly part year and may not give a full indication of the value and need, so I have extrapolated these for you to give a projection of likely activity across a year in (brackets).

2.	2019	2020	2021
	Actual (Extrapolated)	Actual (Extrapolated)	Actual (Extrapolated)
<u>Maidstone site</u>			
Inpatients	28 (112)	29 (58)	32 (64)

Outpatients	3 (12)	10 (20)	0
<u>Tunbridge Wells site</u>			
Inpatients	0	22 (66)	38 (76)
Outpatients	0	5 (15)	7 (14)
Notes	<i>First stack brought online in September at Maidstone site</i>	<i>Pandemic impact. No scoping Mar-Aug. Second stack brought online in August at the Tun Wells site</i>	<i>Pandemic impact remains. Outpatients being reset. Third stack incoming at Maidstone site</i>