



ROYAL  
COLLEGE OF  
PHYSICIANS  
OF IRELAND

# National GI Endoscopy Quality Improvement (NEQI) Programmes

[Key Words and Phrases to Help You  
Understand Report Findings](#)

National Specialty Quality Improvement Programmes

## Key Words and Phrases

### **What is the National GI Endoscopy Quality Improvement (NEQI) Programme?**

The NEQI Programme was set-up in 2011. The programme was set-up in response to a number of cancer misdiagnoses which had occurred, and which had highlighted a lack of systems in place to help discover and learn from these cases.

The aim of the programme was to set national standards in gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopy which could be used to drive quality improvements in hospitals.

### **What is gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopy?**

Gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopy is a procedure that allows the doctor to examine a patient's oesophagus (food pipe), the stomach, the duodenum (first part of the small bowel) and the colon (large bowel).

### **Who Can Carry Out a GI Endoscopy Procedure?**

This procedure is carried out by a **gastroenterologist or surgeon** who is a doctor and who may also be referred to as an endoscopist. Endoscopies are within the scope of practice of some nurses, these nurses are trained as **advanced nurse practitioners in endoscopy**.

A **GI endoscopy procedure** is carried out when a patient has certain symptoms or conditions that must be investigated.

### **Endoscope**

This is the tube used by the doctor or nurse to take pictures of the inside of a patient's body in order to make a diagnosis.

### **Colonoscopy**

This is a procedure that allows the endoscopist to look directly at the lining of the small and large bowel including the colon, rectum and anus.

### **Oesophagogastroduodenoscopy (OGD)**

This is a procedure during which a small flexible tube called an endoscope is passed through the mouth and into the pharynx (throat), oesophagus (food pipe), stomach and duodenum (first part of the small bowel).

### **Flexible sigmoidoscopy (FSig)**

This is a procedure that is used to assess the lower part of the large bowel.

An endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) is a procedure that is used to diagnose and treat problems in a patient's liver, gallbladder, bile ducts and pancreas.

### **Key quality indicator (KQI)**

This is the term given to a particular part of the procedure for which we would like to measure the quality. It is used to make sure what is measured is the same each time and therefore allows the Programme to carry out comparisons over time.

### **Target**

The NEQI Programme has created a specific value connected to each key quality indicator. These targets guide those carrying out endoscopies towards best practice and care for the patient and are values that they should aim for or try to exceed.

### **Recommendation**

Each year, the NEQI Programme reviews all the findings in the annual national data report and suggests the best course of action that should be taken by those carrying out endoscopies and/or the hospital management to make sure that targets are being met and patients are receiving the best care.

### **Median**

A median is the middle number of a dataset. The use of sedation can vary in different hospitals owing to many different factors, by using the median value the findings are not skewed in any one direction.

### **Additional Sources**

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/endoscopy/#:~:text=An%20endoscopy%20is%20a%20test,look%20at%20on%20a%20screen>

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/bowel-screening/colonoscopy-after-bowel-screening/>