

DOES THE CLINICAL ASSESSMENT SERVICE HELP WITH OUTPATIENT CAPACITY AND PATIENT PATHWAY?

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A retrospective analysis of 2265 gastroenterology referrals at a North London district hospital found that a clinical assessment service (CAS) triaging model resulted in 43% of patients being discharged after investigations without requiring an outpatient appointment.

KEY POINTS

- 2265 patients referred to gastroenterology from January to December 2022 were assessed through CAS clinics triaging 24 patients per week
- 680 patients (30%) were triaged directly to outpatient appointments, 68 patients (3%) were redirected to another service, and 20 patients were discharged having already been investigated by another department
- The most common investigations ordered were gastroscopy (684), colonoscopy (288), combined gastroscopy and colonoscopy (171), CT scan (198), and MRI (45)
- 973 patients (43%) were discharged back to their GP following straight-to-test investigations without requiring a clinic appointment
- The authors conclude that the CAS model helps streamline the patient pathway and endorse its use for routine gastroenterology referrals

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