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Summary

THE UK NATIONAL ERCP SURVEY: CLINICAL PATHWAYS & GOVERNANCE

Simon Everett

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Hepatobiliary

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A 2023 UK survey of ERCP practice reveals variation in procedural volumes, clinical pathways, and quality assurance despite a 2014 standards framework.

KEY POINTS

- The survey achieved 78% response from 491 identified ERCP practitioners and 100% response from 171 organisations providing ERCP in the UK.
- While 77% of units perform more than 150 ERCPs annually, volume varies widely at both organisational and individual practitioner level, with some low-volume units and individuals identified.
- Case selection is reviewed by specialist ERCP consultants in 85% of organisations, but only 33% have a dedicated ERCP or benign multidisciplinary team.
- Written policies for clinical pathways exist in 75% of organisations, but specific guidance on rectal NSAIDs, temporary stent removal, and pancreatic duct stent insertion is inconsistent.
- While 90% of units collect annual quality assurance data, 66% of practitioners report inadequate time for ERCP-related governance and audit, and data collection methods and review processes vary.

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