

Executive Summary

Results from 2018–2019, the sixth year of the National Emergency Laparotomy Audit

[Principal performance statistics are available here](#)

- 1** **24,823** patients had emergency laparotomies in England and Wales

National **30-day mortality rate** has fallen to **9.3%** (11.8% in Year 1)


- 2** Improvements in care have reduced patients' average hospital stay from **19.2 days** in 2013 to **15.4 days** in 2019

19.2 days
15.4 days


- 3** **84%** of patients now receive a preoperative assessment of risk (up from 77% last year, and 56% in Year 1)


- 4** **97%** of high-risk patients had consultant surgeon input before surgery (95% in Year 4)

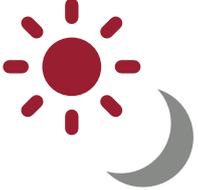
94% of high-risk patients had consultant anaesthetist input before surgery (88% in Year 4)

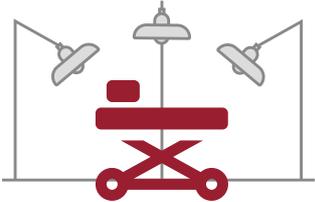

- 5** **85%** of high-risk patients admitted to critical care (80% in Year 4)


- 6** **90.5%** of patients received a preoperative CT scan

62% of these patients had their scan reported by a consultant radiologist


- 7** Both anaesthetic and surgeon consultant presence intraoperatively is at 88.5%, but only **77.4%** out of hours


- 8** Over 1/4 of patients needing the most urgent of surgery did not get to the operating theatre in the recommended time frame


- 9** **85%** of patients with sepsis reached theatres in the appropriate timeframe


- 10** Time to antibiotics in patients with sepsis remains poor with **79.7%** not receiving antibiotics within one hour


- 11** **56%** of patients are over the age of 65

Only **28.8%** of frail patients over 65 had geriatrician input

