

NELA / COVID – Questions Update (30-06-2020)

We have now received approval to add the COVID questions to the NELA database. These have been backdated to 23rd March, the date when lockdown began. As such, all records since that date have been (or will be over the next few days) unlocked to allow these questions to be answered.

We fully understand that you may have limited ability to enter/provide answers for these questions, and hence fully expect to receive a fair number of "unknowns" to some of the questions, especially those that are not easily obtainable from pathology results. We have extended the deadline for Q4 cases (those until 1st April) to Wednesday 15th July.

We are genuinely extremely sorry that the questions are being added retrospectively, and that this request has come later than we would have wanted. The NELA project team is composed of anaesthetists and surgeons who have also experienced an increased clinical workload, only some of whom finished resident night shift rotas this week. This working pattern has had a significant impact on our ability to work to our usual speeds. We know that this will have been mirrored around the country. NHS England only released their guidance on collecting national audit data in April, by which time the NHS was well into COVID working patterns.

In an ideal world, we would not need to add retrospective questions. However, the sooner this is done, the better for all going forwards. We do acknowledge that the NHS has in no way returned to normal, and it is important to capture this information as best as possible.

Regards,

Dr Sarah Hare, NELA National Clinical Lead

Dr Dave Murray, NELA Chair

Dr Carolyn Johnston, NELA QI Lead

Ms Sonia Lockwood, NELA Surgical Lead