



Epsom Downs Integrated Care Services

Referral statistics January 2007 - December 2008

This year's data which I have sent on paper to all practice managers, contains 3 sets of figures:

- (a) Figure 1 – total referrals from the whole group for 2007 and 2008 (showing trend line)
- (b) Figure 2 – your own practice's referral trends during 2008 (red) compared with the average of the other practices (blue)
- (c) The rest of the charts show referrals per 1000 patients during 2008 for each practice for each speciality

Figure 1: The total number of NHS out-patient referrals from EDICS and EDICS Leatherhead practice for the past two years (shown below – Figure 1) shows a rise of 3 - 4% percent (ie 1.6 % per year). This increase is low compared with the rest of Surrey.

Figure 2: Each practice's average number of NHS referrals is artificially depressed because of inward referrals within the PMS+ ICP group of practices. These practices comprise around 20 percent of the EDICS population and have the effect of making all non-ICP practices appear to be higher referrers (compared with the mean) than they really are. If you wish to look at trends within a particular speciality, then please get in touch.

Other Charts: Subsequent charts show the numbers of referrals per 1000 of the population from each practice for each speciality during year 2008 (January – November). The speciality concerned is shown on the top left hand corner. Again, you need to allow for the PMS+ effect. The only two specialities unaffected by this effect are dermatology and gastroenterology. Practices which wish to analyse these figures more closely are welcome to contact me. The comparison figures for year 2007 are available on the EDICS website www.edics.co.uk

On each speciality-specific chart:

Sum of NoRefs – refers to each practice's referrals per 1000 population

Sum of OtherPractices – refers to the average number of referrals per 1000 population for all other practices (except the one in question – ie your own).

The software system has been modified to produce these figures and as yet, I am unable to provide the cumulative results electronically. This may be possible later during 2009.

Problems with this data:

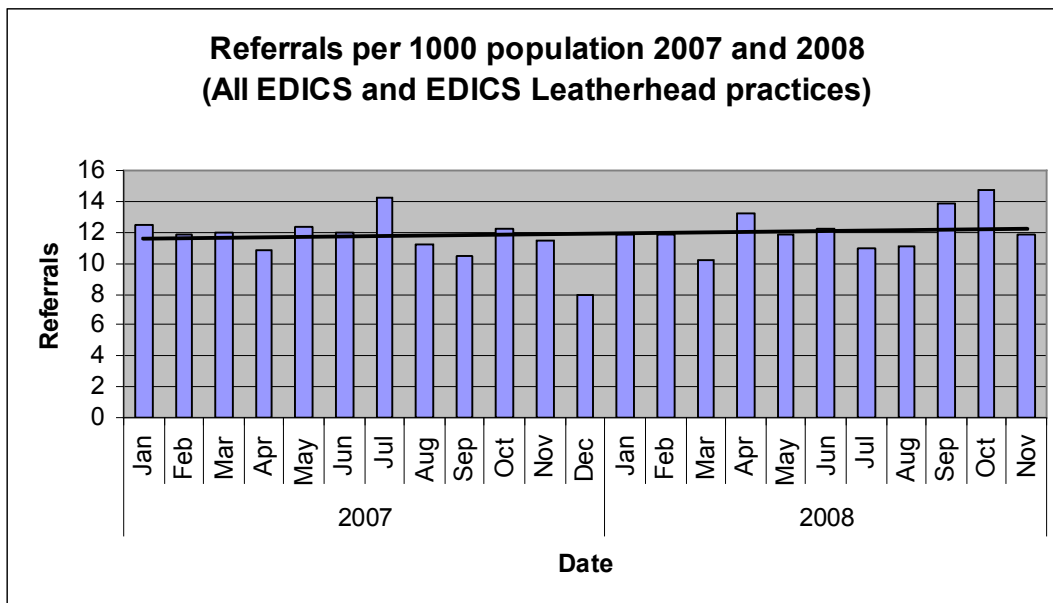
- (1) The data refers only to NHS referrals. Private referrals are not included
- (2) PMS+ activity is not included. The figures circulated last year demonstrated that this makes a major difference to mean referrals.
- (3) The data assumes that all referrals are made via the Gateway and that where this does not happen, that the Gateway is copied in. This does not always happen.

For these reasons, this data should not be used to make value judgements about a practice's referral behaviour. It is merely indicative and a way to begin to ask further questions.

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Figure 1: Total NHS referrals from EDICS and EDICS (Leatherhead) group of practices (with trend-line)



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