



Using the National Endoscopy Database (NED) as a trainee

Interview with Javed Ahmed

The National Endoscopy Database is an increasingly valuable tool for training in endoscopy, yet many of those already using the JAG endoscopy training system (JETS) are not active users of NED. We spoke with Javed Ahmed, ST6 gastroenterology trainee in north west London, regarding the potential of NED for trainees. Javed has recently returned to endoscopy after 4 years of working on his PhD, which focused on novel technologies to reduce patient discomfort in colonoscopy. He is the trainee representative for the Northwest London deanery and for the BSG endoscopy clinical research group, as well as being part of the NED user group.

In early 2026, Javed conducted a pan-London survey to gain feedback regarding awareness, knowledge and perceptions of NED from trainees. The results showed that 50% of trainees do not actively use NED and are not aware that they have access as part of their service's registration with JAG. Instead, trainees use JETS which uses the data received by NED, saving manually entered procedures but summarised in core KPIs only. Javed is keen to encourage trainees to use the database for support with personal development and research: 'We need to let all trainees know from the get-go that this exists and how it could benefit them as a trainee... especially if you're in that position where you have got certification and need to keep a track of things.'


When discussing how NED is useful for trainees, Javed highlighted two key areas in which the website can benefit them: professional development and research purposes.

Using NED as a tool for personal development while training

'NED goes with you wherever you may go. If you're a trainee, you may not be in the same hospital every time. No information is lost.'

After becoming certified, Javed explained that NED was an important tool of support while completing independent lists. The traffic light system allows trainees to quickly identify what areas should be focused on for professional development, as well as areas of strength. Using NED also helped Javed overcome imposter syndrome:

'When you start doing endoscopy lists, you very much have that imposter syndrome of "Oh, I'm doing my own lists now. How do I make sure I'm as good as other people? Is there anything that's going to be picked up on that I may not be doing as well as I can do?" For me, having as much information as possible to show I'm working within the correct parameters and doing the right thing was, if anything, reassurance that I'm okay to do independent lists.'



Jabed added: 'Getting certified doesn't necessarily mean you're competent or ready to do your own lists. There's still much more work to do. Having objective evidence that shows that you're still progressing after certification will provide you with confidence. For anyone assessing you, NED is a tool that will allow you to demonstrate that to them.'

Even after becoming certified, it is important that trainees continue to monitor their key performance indicators (KPIs) for personal development. Although JETS offers core KPIs via the endoscopist portfolio, NED offers a larger selection of KPIs for in-depth analysis of personal performance. Jabed explained: 'It's still important once you certify to see what you're doing year on year, and where your strengths and weaknesses are... If you're into endoscopic education or training, NED will be where you go to, rather than JETS.'

Using NED for research purposes

'NED is a massive database that's national. It's great to help provide some really powerful studies.'

With over 2 million procedures submitted every year across the UK, NED is a valuable tool to be used in research. The data collected can be shared with services, clinicians and stakeholders for research purposes, and can be useful for trainees who are completing their research question, especially those who are interested in industry. Jabed explained that he enjoys using NED from a research perspective: 'I can tap into this vast resource and use it to look at other things I'm interested in.' Because of the vast amount of data on NED, it can be an impactful tool for researchers and trainees. Unfortunately, many trainees are not aware of the research purposes of NED, and miss out on a tool that could support powerful studies:

'I would say less than 10% [of trainees] probably know that there is a research element, where all of this data can be used to benefit their research question.'

NED is automatically populated by data extracted from the endoscopy reporting system at reporting services in the UK. This removes the need for manual recording, and Jabed explains that while this is great for saving time for trainees, it also improves data quality for research:

'I think that's where NED is great. It removes all that subjective bias. Before, you would have to manually enter your procedures. You might not quite remember how many polyps you took off, what the exact diagnosis was, or even the demographics. By putting in the wrong age, eventually, sadly, you're getting more and more inaccurate data. Being objective is nice and streamlined. It takes a lot of the bias away.'

If you are interested in using NED data for research purposes, please complete our [research request form](#).

We thank Jabed for taking the time out of his busy schedule to discuss trainee use of NED and hope to encourage trainees across the UK to incorporate NED into their training practice.

If you have any questions about the NED programme and wish to get in touch, contact us at askjag@rcp.ac.uk