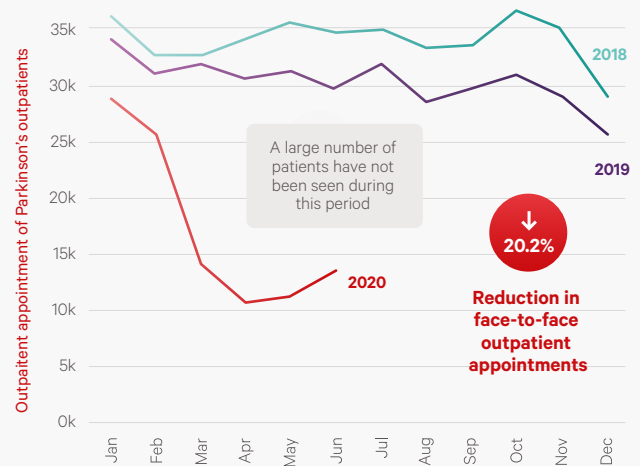


Parkinson's Disease • The Impact of Covid-19

Health professionals report that the Covid-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on Parkinson's services:



Outpatient appointments for PwP, hospital episode statistics in England:



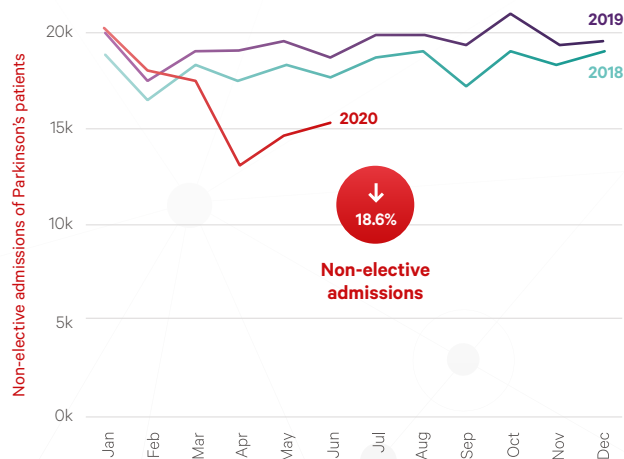
For people with Parkinson's (PwP) this has meant:

- Fewer hospital referrals
- Decreased face-to-face appointments
- Reduced access to the multi-disciplinary team



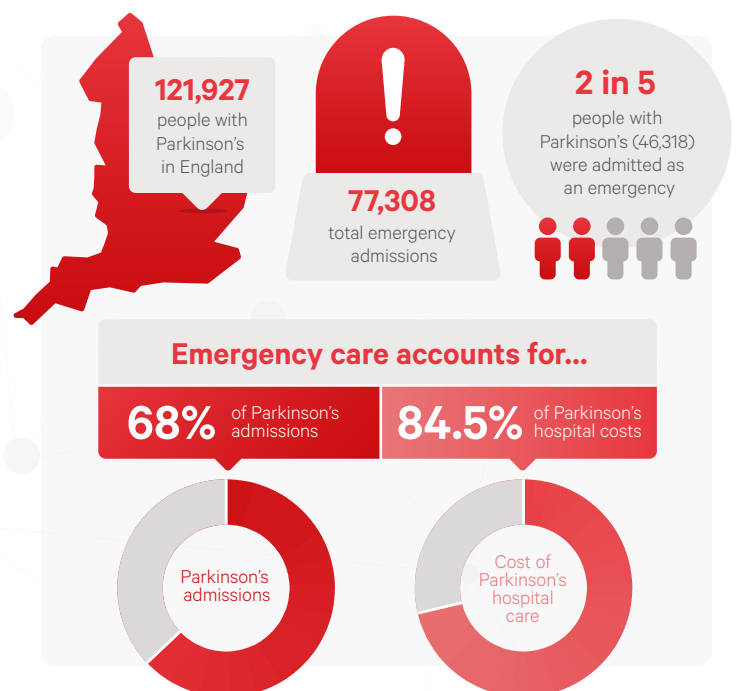
Hidden emergencies

Emergency admissions for PwP in England dramatically reduced during lockdown:



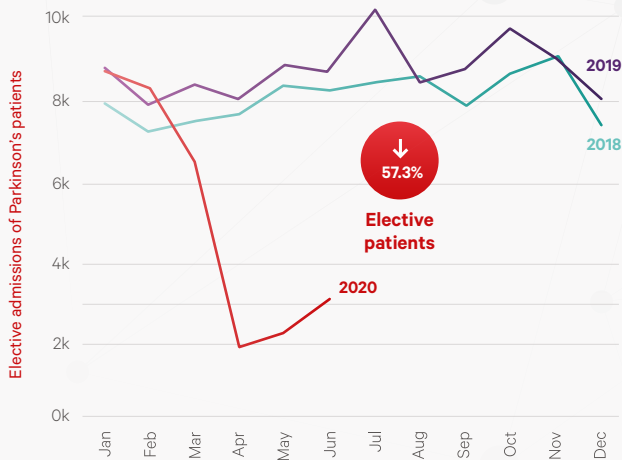
Normally PwP have a high level of emergency admissions. So what has happened to these patients in the pandemic? Are these hidden emergencies?

Pre-pandemic emergency admission data for PwP in England 2019/20:



Secondary care data is taken from the English Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) database produced by NHS Digital, the new trading name for the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) Copyright © 2020, the Health and Social Care Information Centre. Re-used with the permission of the HSCIC. All rights reserved.

Postponement of elective admissions during the pandemic have had unintended and life-changing consequences for Parkinson's patients.



Many people with Parkinson's may have missed their limited window of opportunity to receive non-oral therapy initiation, like apomorphine, carbidopa gel and deep brain stimulation.

The backlog and delay in GP patient referrals for specialist diagnosis and care may also have caused an increase in unplanned admissions.

The most common reasons and costs for emergency admissions for PwP in England in 2019/20:

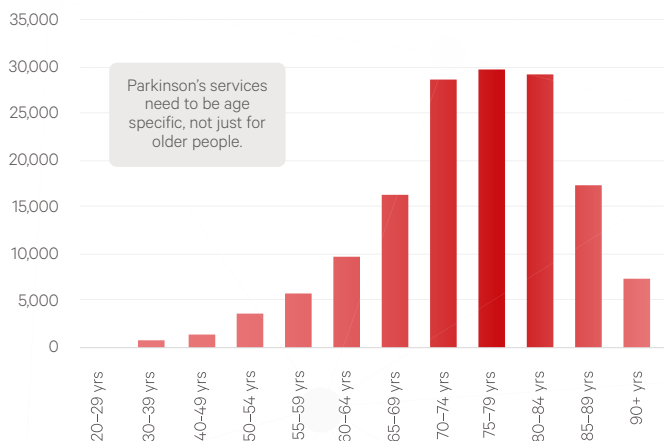
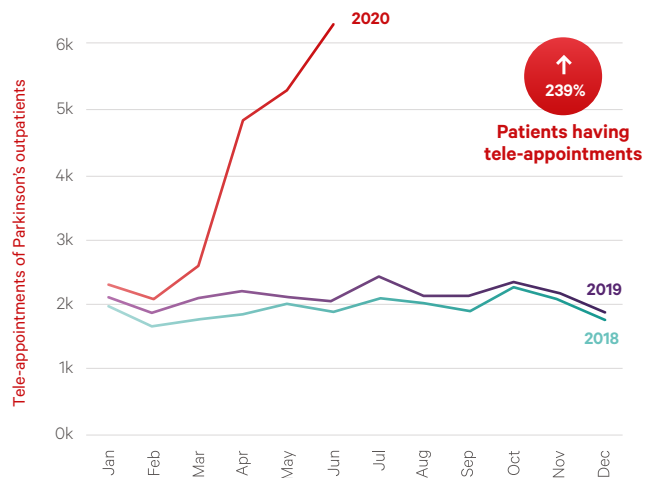
- **Urinary tract infections** £26m
- **Falls** £18m
- **Lobar pneumonia** £19m
- **Sepsis** £15m

Services must focus on enhancing support for patients at risk of these preventable and costly complications.

New ways of working

Resetting services following the pandemic is not simply a return to normal for the NHS. It means all pathways and services are being transformed, with a focus on innovation and system-wide change. The task is now to assess what elements of health services will be rebooted in a different form.

Many PwP can be meaningfully supported with tele-appointments which have soared during the pandemic. Future services will need to maintain some face to face appointments but step-up virtual clinics, encourage patient-initiated follow-up, and engage with primary care.



Source: Parkinson's UK (2017) The incidence and prevalence of Parkinson's in the UK: Results from the Clinical Practice Research Datalink.

Service reset post-Covid will involve:

- Keeping patients out of hospital with managed early discharge
- Risk monitoring patients to prevent avoidable complications and hospital admissions.
- Make remote triage as efficient and safe as possible
- Support teams to engage with technology and change management
- Reduce hand offs and appointments to maximise capacity
- Ensure Integrated teams can work together to deliver change