Changes in patterns of emergency hospital admissions since the covid19 lockdown

week 24 analysis

July 2020

The Strategy Unit.

NHS
Midlands and Lancashire
Commissioning Support Unit

Introduction

This document describes the changes that have taken place to patterns of emergency hospital admissions since the covid19 lockdown on 23rd March 2020.

This analysis describes emergency admissions in a representative subset of hospitals in England for the period up to the end of week 24 (16th June).

Key messages

Emergency admission rates are increasing but had not returned to pre-lockdown levels by the end of week 24.

In the week following the lockdown, rates fell to about 40% of their normal level; by week 24 emergency admissions were 20% below the usual level.

Reductions in admission rates preceded the lockdown by 1 week.

Reductions in admissions via GPs were greater than those admitted via A&E.

Admissions to surgical specialties fell more sharply following the lockdown than those to medical specialties, but have recovered more rapidly.

Amongst the medical specialties, reductions were most marked in paediatrics and respiratory medicine and more modest in stroke medicine, endocrinology and gastroenterology.

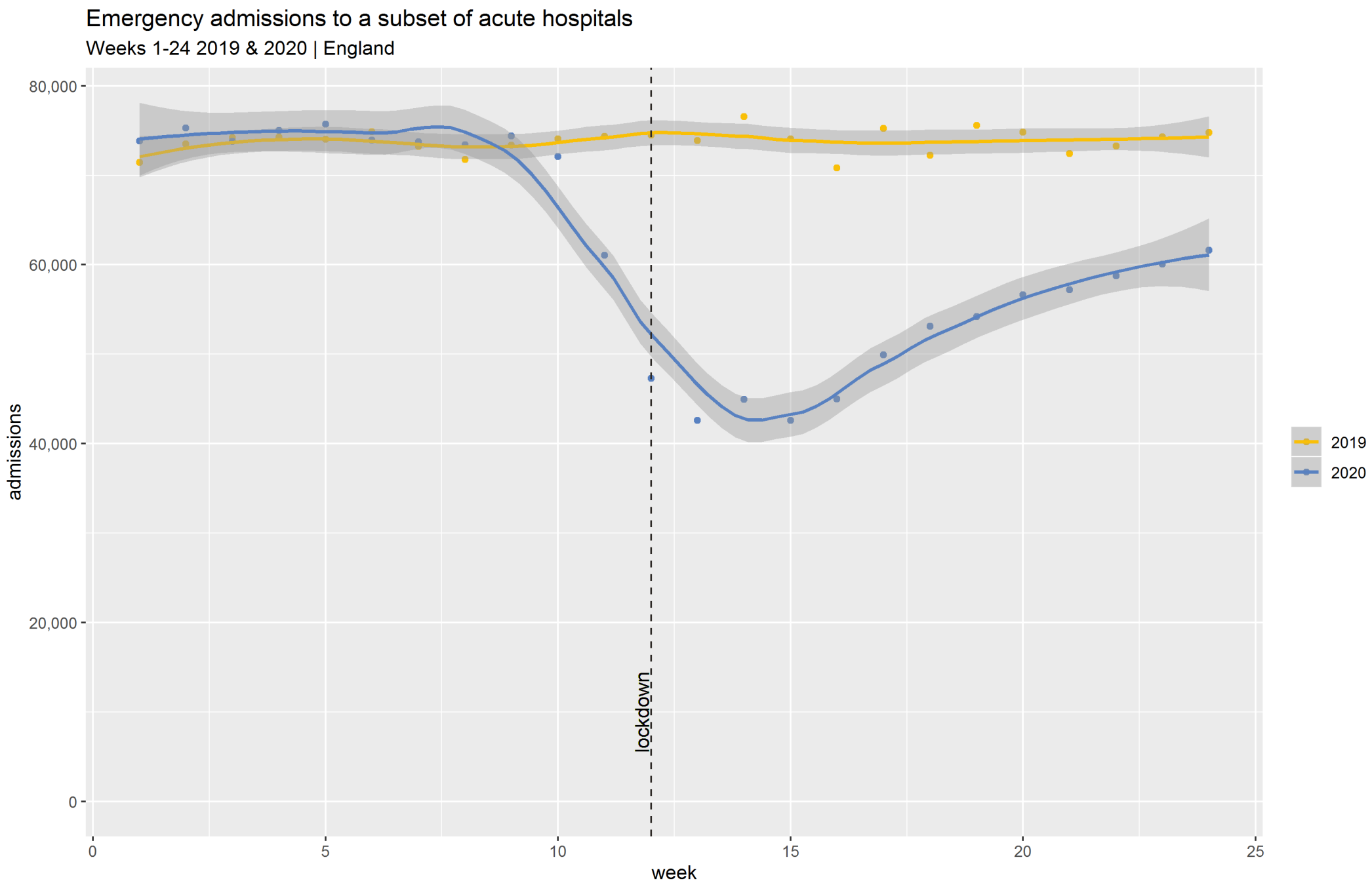
In the surgical specialties, the greatest reductions were seen in ENT and A&E medicine, and smallest in neurosurgery and trauma and orthopaedics.

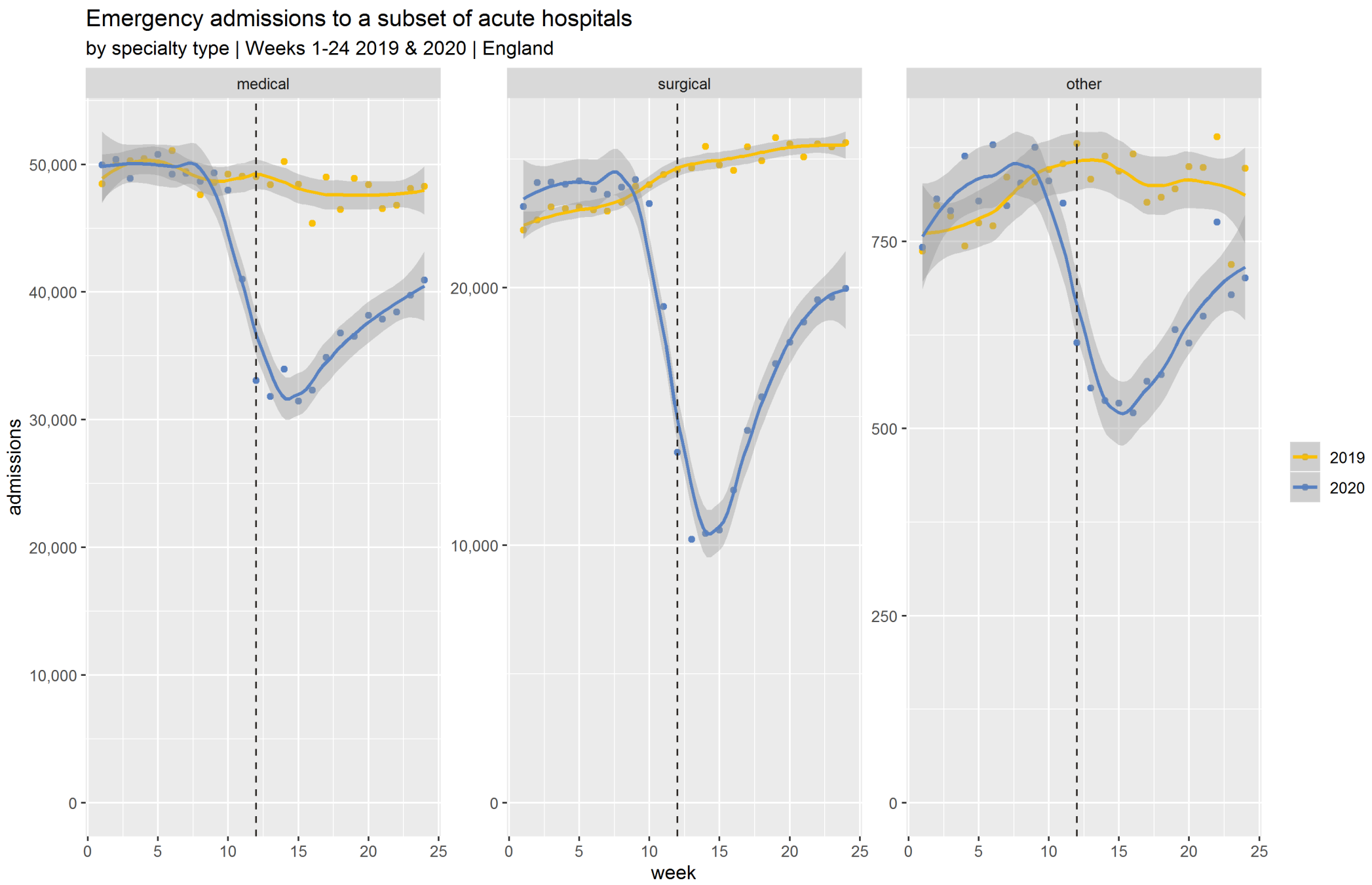
Admissions with a primary diagnosis in ICD10 chapters I (infectious and parasitic diseases) and X (respiratory system diseases) fell at the fastest rate and have increased only marginally since the lockdown.

Admissions to medical specialties that included a critical care stay rose rapidly in weeks 12-15, but have returned below the usual rate since week 16.

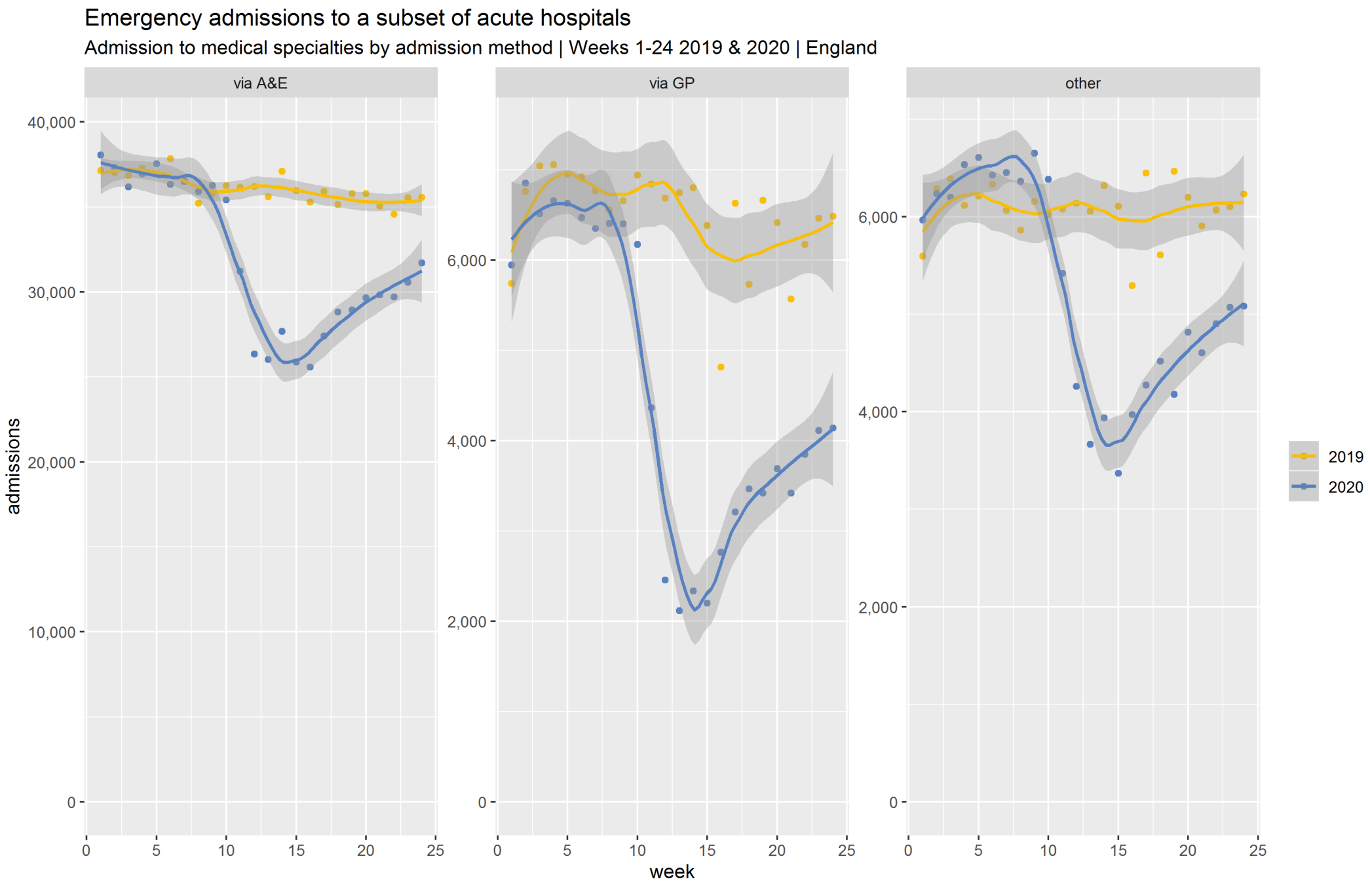
Emergency admissions of children have been substantially greater than for adults, particularly in the medical specialties.

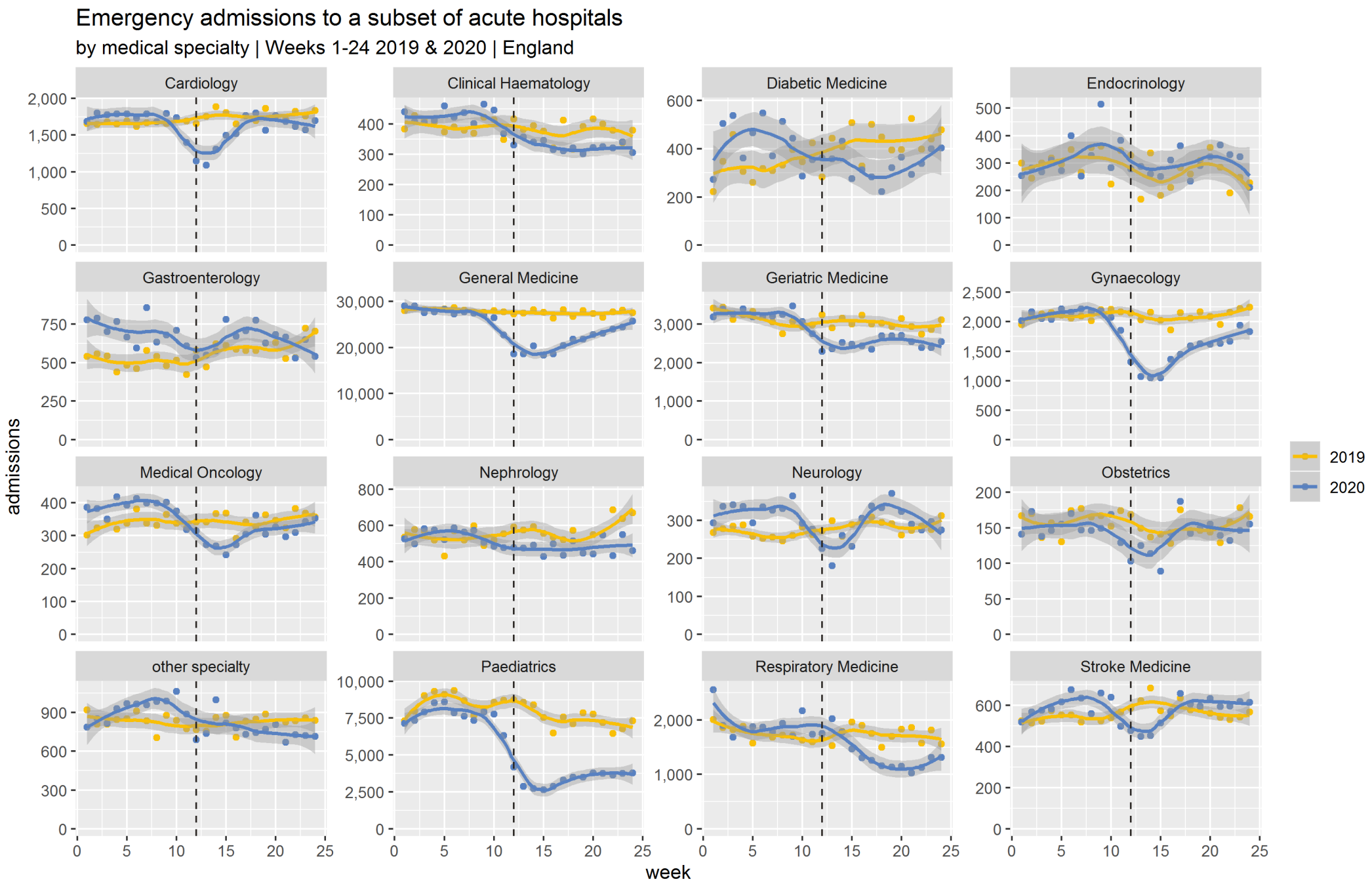
Admissions of patients with SAR-CoV-2 peaked in week 14 and had fallen to very low levels by week 24.


Emergency admissions to a subset of acute hospitals
Weeks 1-24 2019 & 2020 | England
admissions
80,000
60,000
40,000
20,000
0
lockdown
0
5
10
15
20
25
week
2019
2020


Emergency admissions to a subset of acute hospitals
by specialty type | Weeks 1-24 2019 & 2020 | England
medical
surgical
other
admissions
week
2019
2020

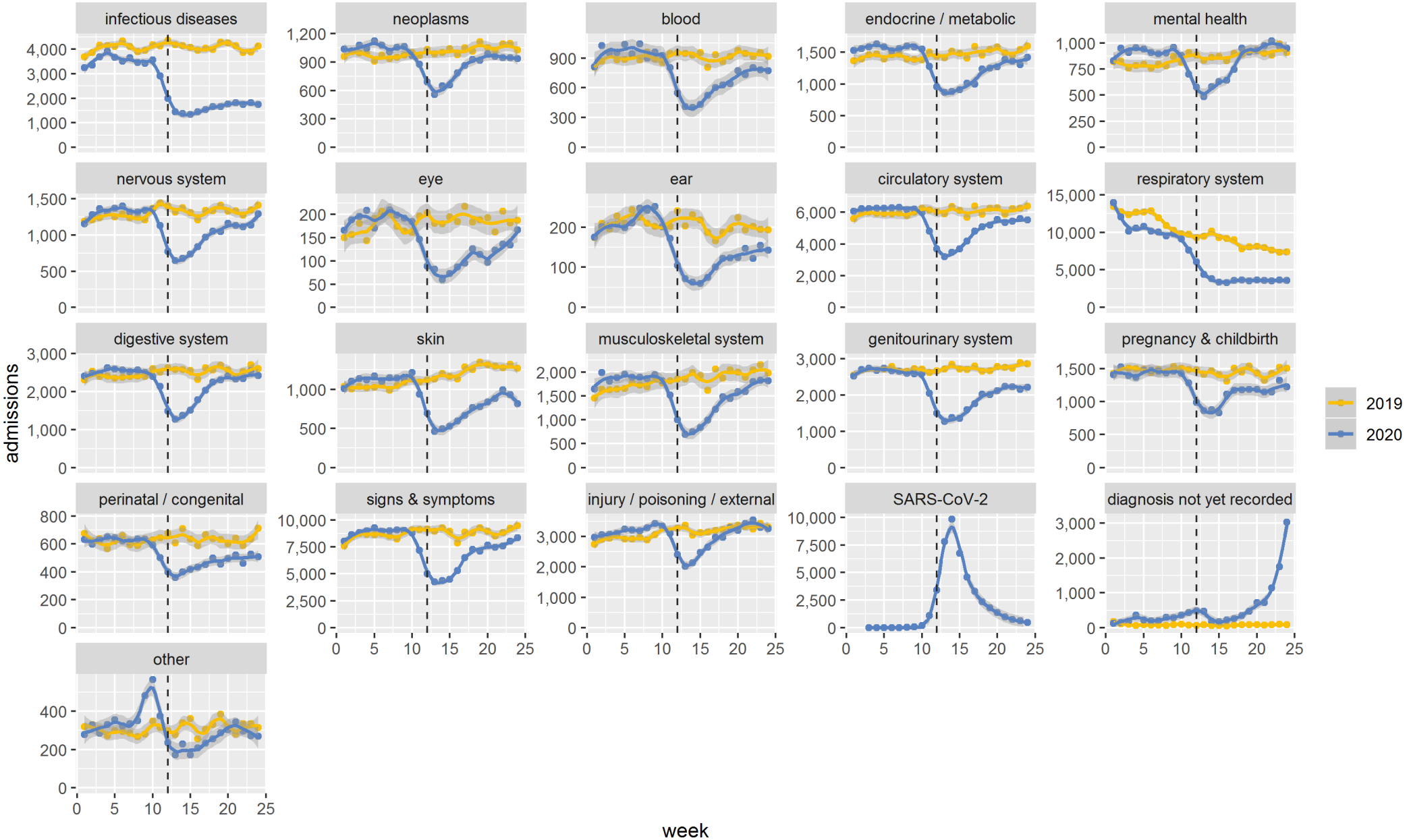
Admissions to medical specialties


Emergency admissions to a subset of acute hospitals
Admission to medical specialties by admission method | Weeks 1-24 2019 & 2020 | England
via A&E
via GP
other
admissions
week
2019
2020
0
10,000
20,000
30,000
40,000
2,000
4,000
6,000
0
5
10
15
20
25


Emergency admissions to a subset of acute hospitals
by medical specialty | Weeks 1-24 2019 & 2020 | England
Cardiology
Clinical Haematology
Diabetic Medicine
Endocrinology
Gastroenterology
General Medicine
Geriatric Medicine
Gynaecology
Medical Oncology
Nephrology
Neurology
Obstetrics
other specialty
Paediatrics
Respiratory Medicine
Stroke Medicine
admissions
week
2019
2020

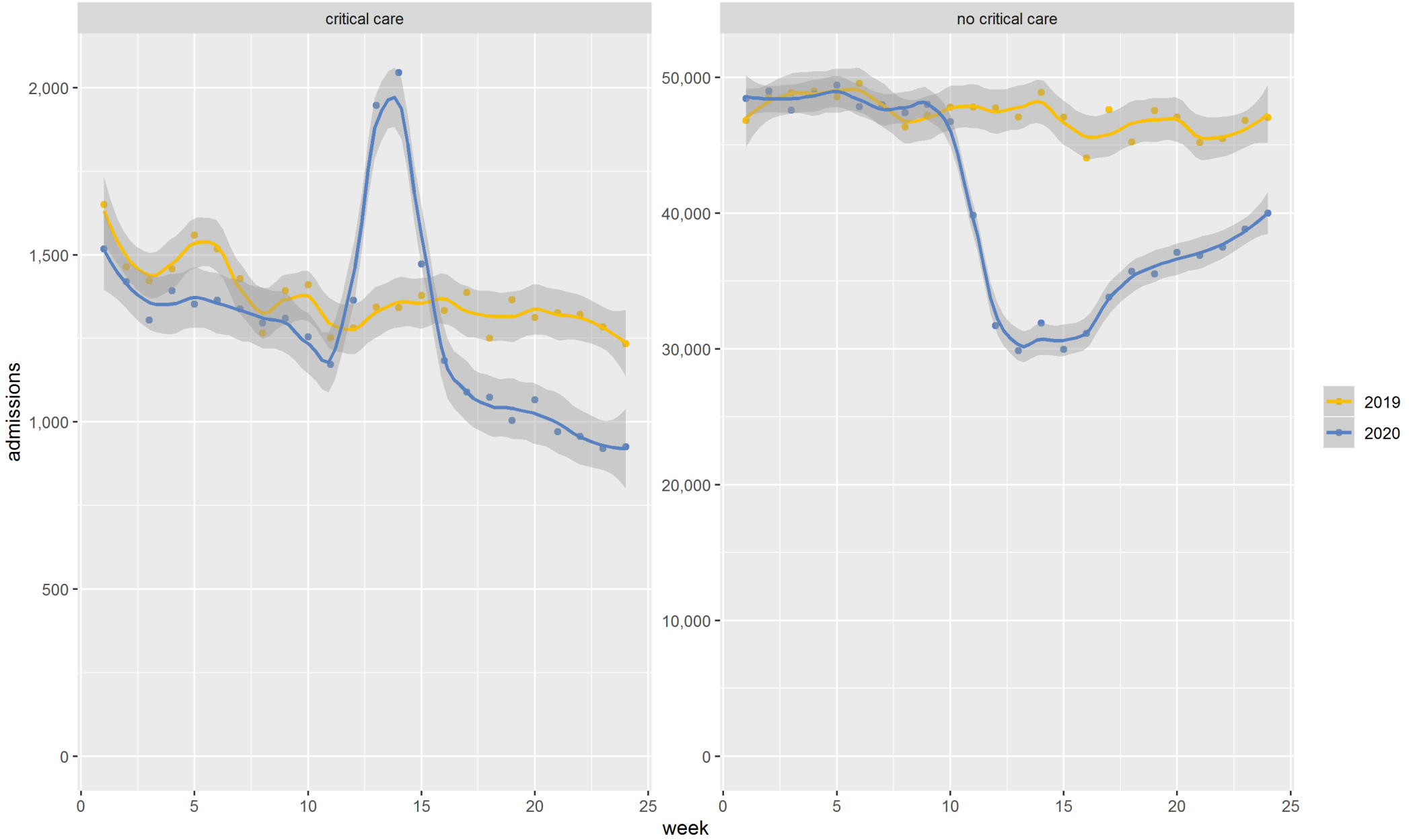
Emergency admissions to a subset of acute hospitals

Admission to medical specialties by ICD10 chapter | Weeks 1-24 2019 & 2020 | England



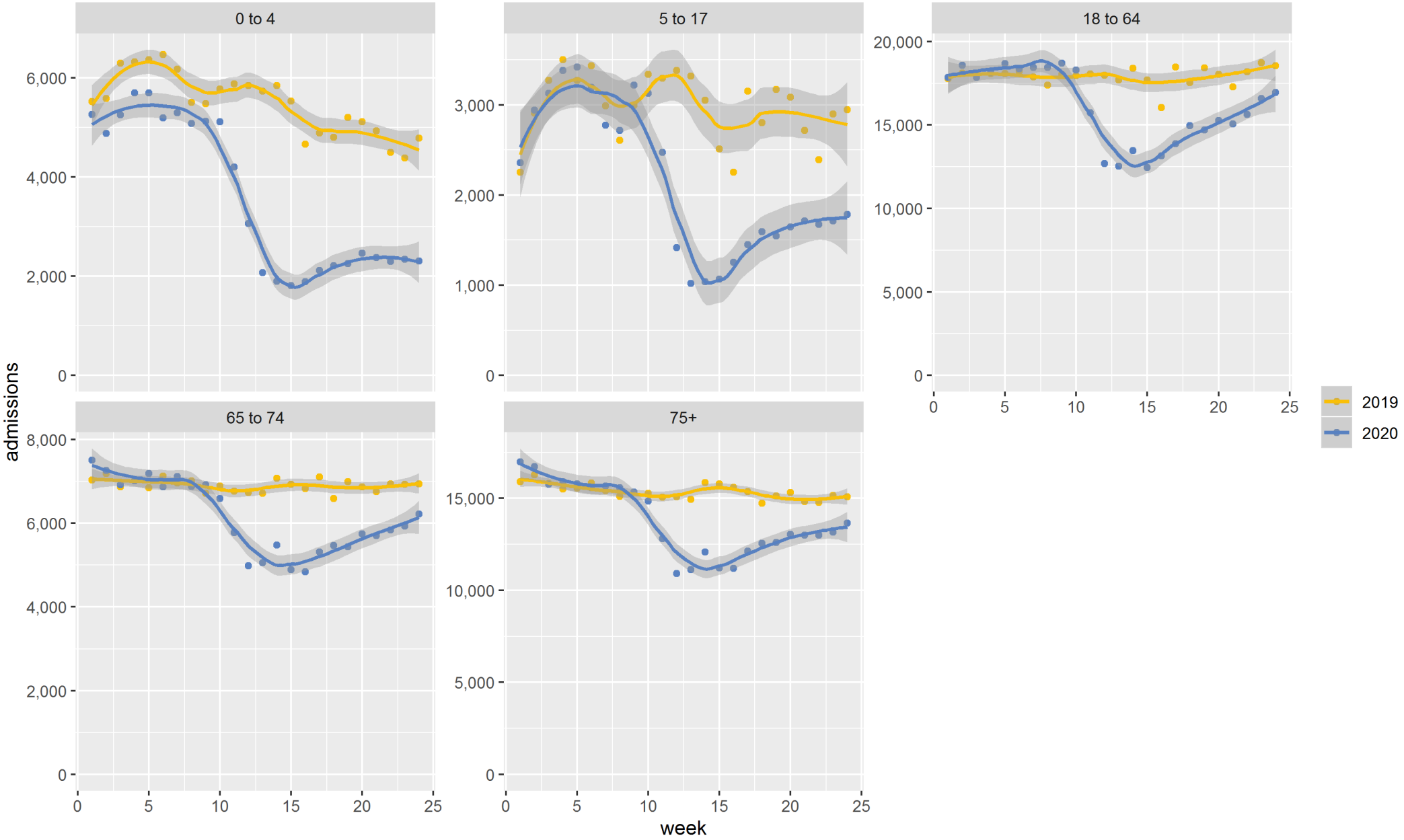
Emergency admissions to medical specialties a subset of acute hospitals

Admission to medical specialties by critical care (y/n) | Weeks 1-24 2019 & 2020 | England



Emergency admissions to medical specialties a subset of acute hospitals

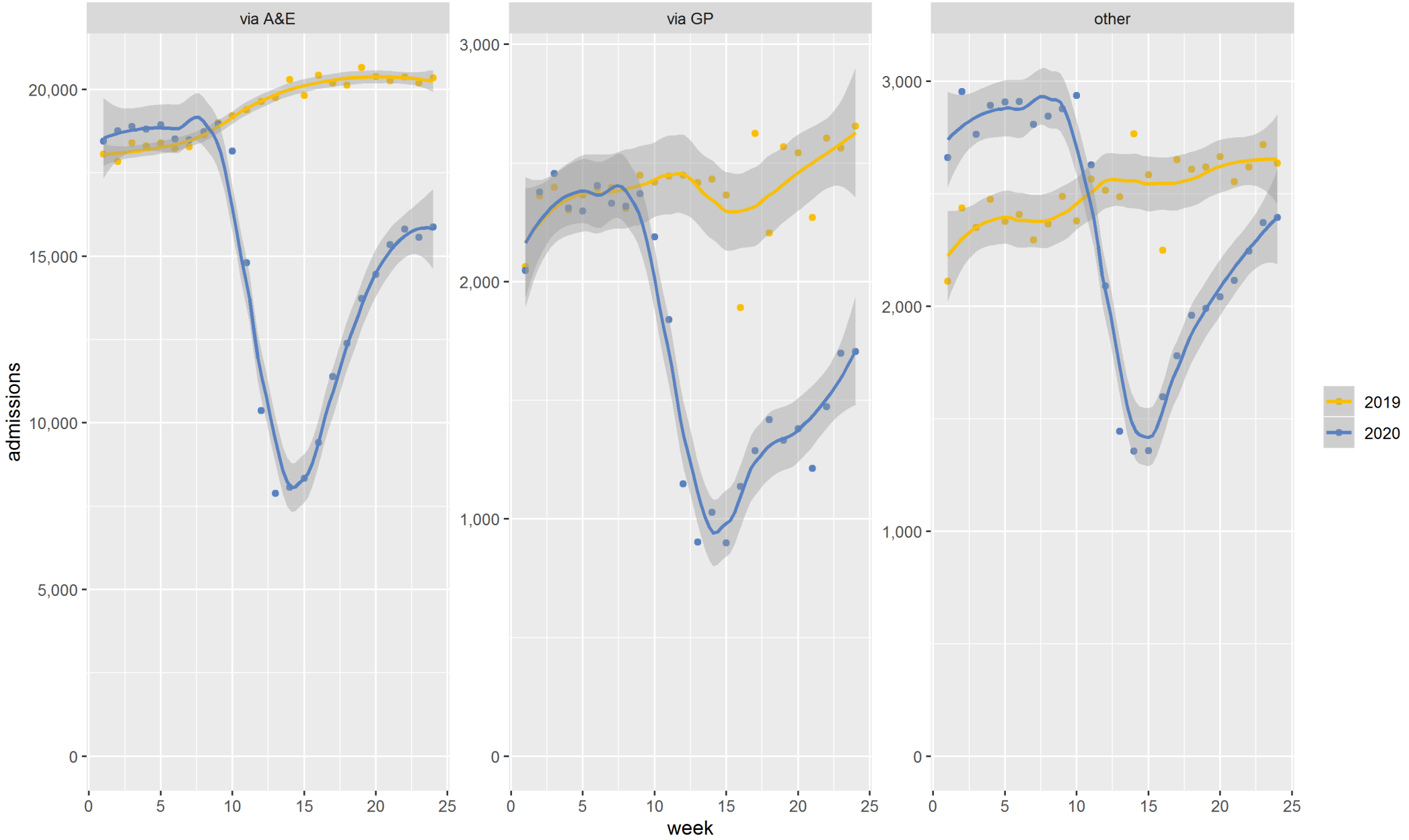
Admission to medical specialties by age group | Weeks 1-24 2019 & 2020 | England

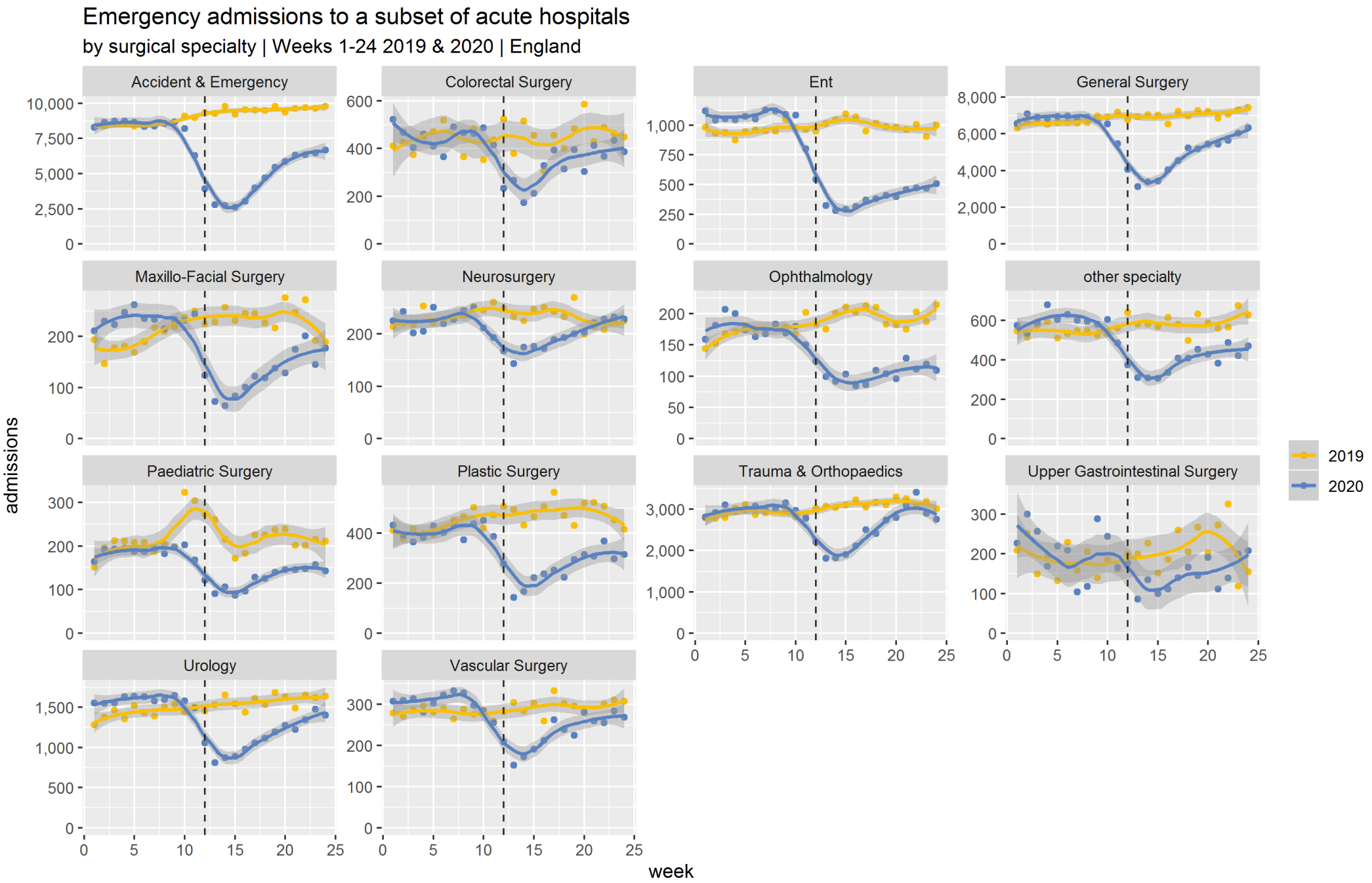


Admissions to surgical specialties

Emergency admissions to a subset of acute hospitals

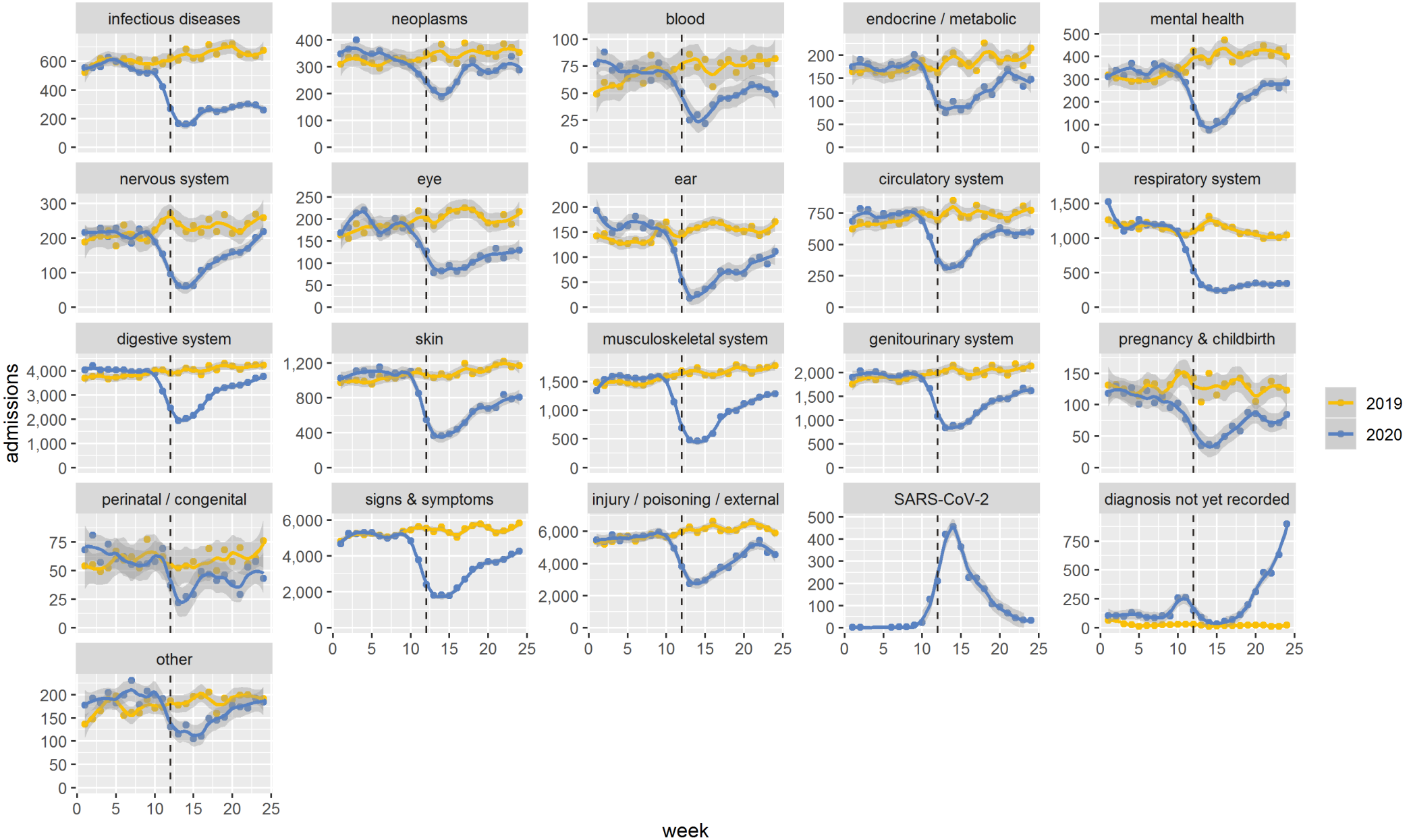
Admission to surgical specialties by admission method | Weeks 1-24 2019 & 2020 | England




Emergency admissions to a subset of acute hospitals
by surgical specialty | Weeks 1-24 2019 & 2020 | England
Accident & Emergency
Colorectal Surgery
Ent
General Surgery
Maxillo-Facial Surgery
Neurosurgery
Ophthalmology
other specialty
Paediatric Surgery
Plastic Surgery
Trauma & Orthopaedics
Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery
Urology
Vascular Surgery
admissions
week
2019
2020

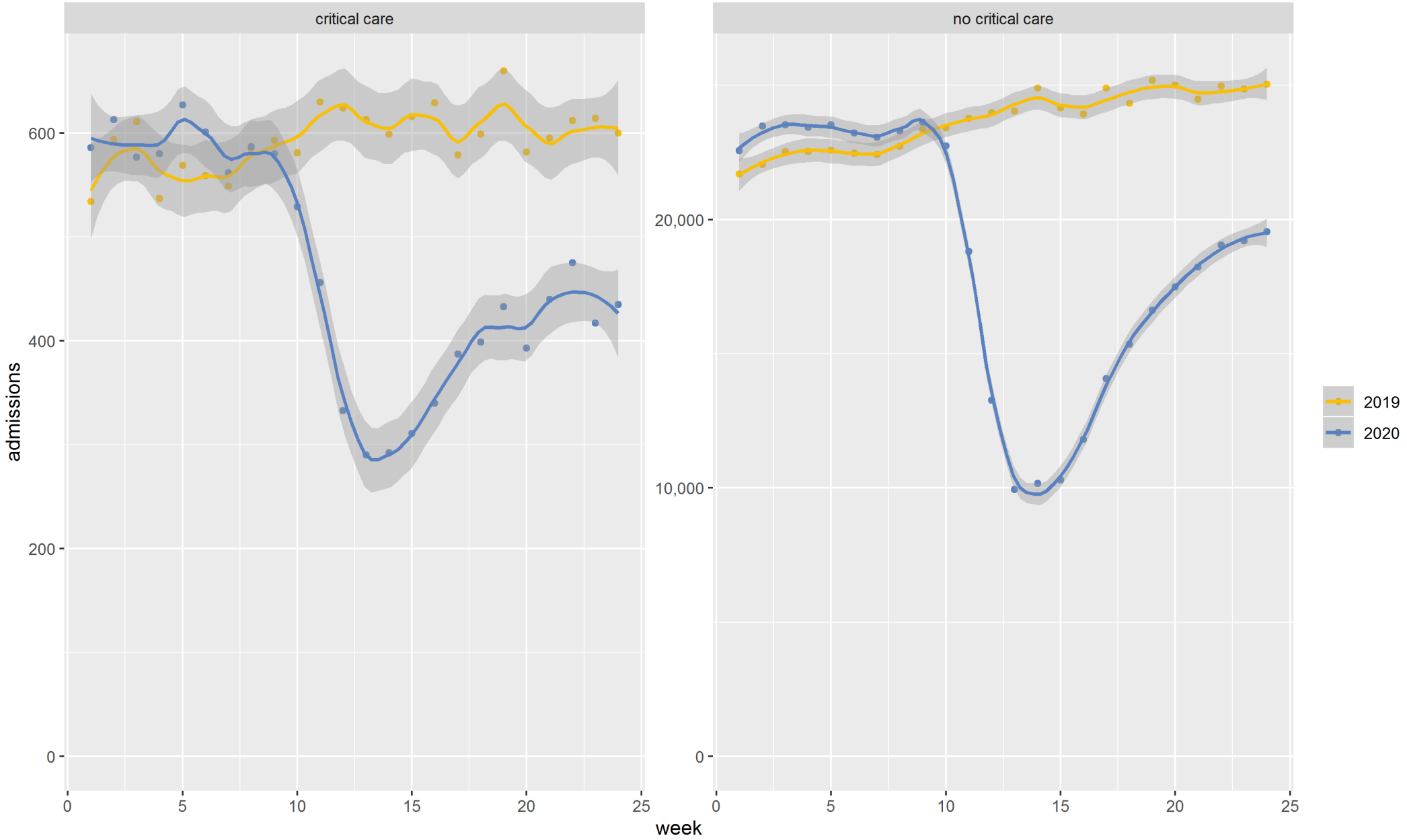
Emergency admissions to a subset of acute hospitals

Admission to surgical specialties by ICD10 chapter | Weeks 1-24 2019 & 2020 | England



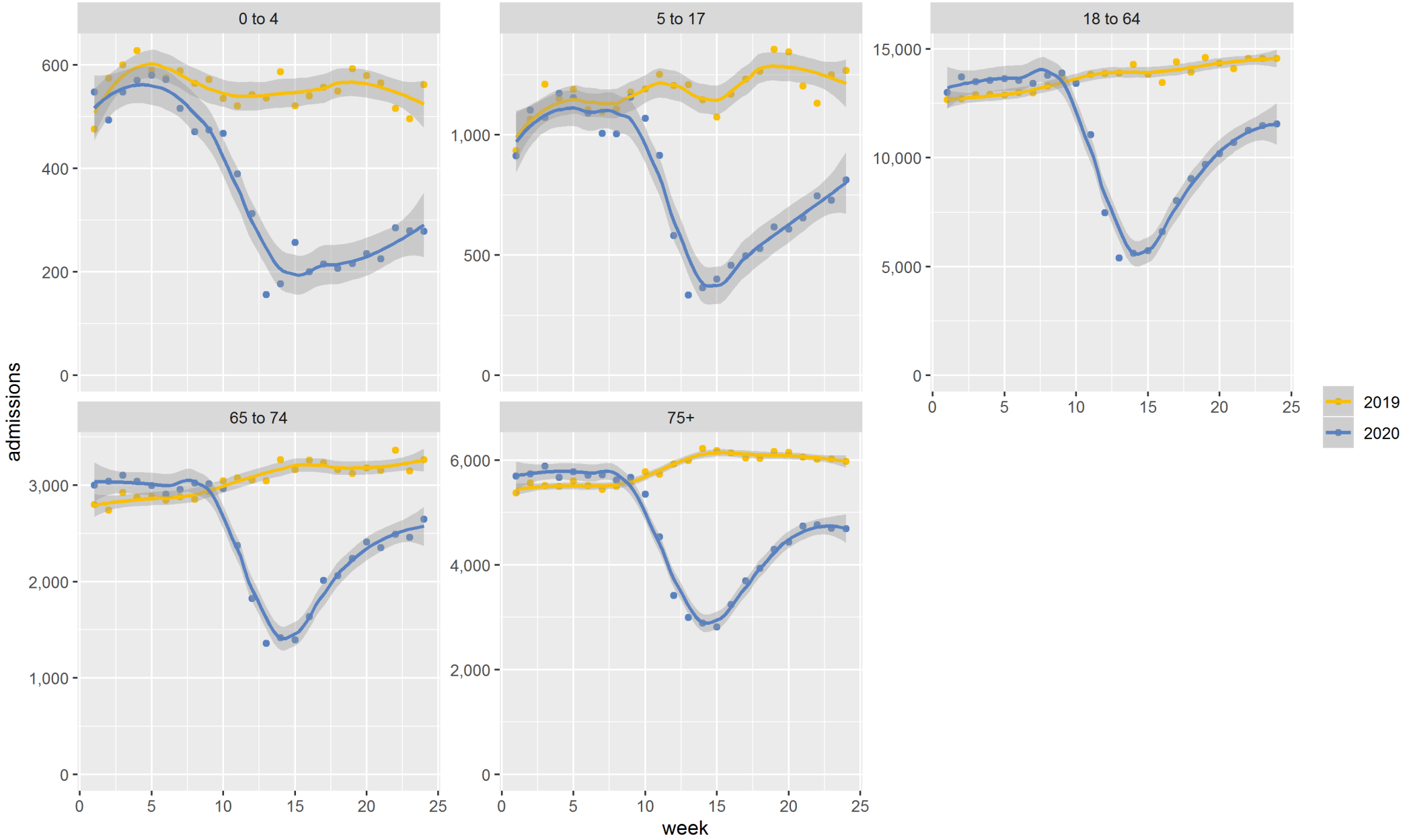
Emergency admissions to medical specialties a subset of acute hospitals

Admission to surgical specialties by critical care (y/n) | Weeks 1-24 2019 & 2020 | England

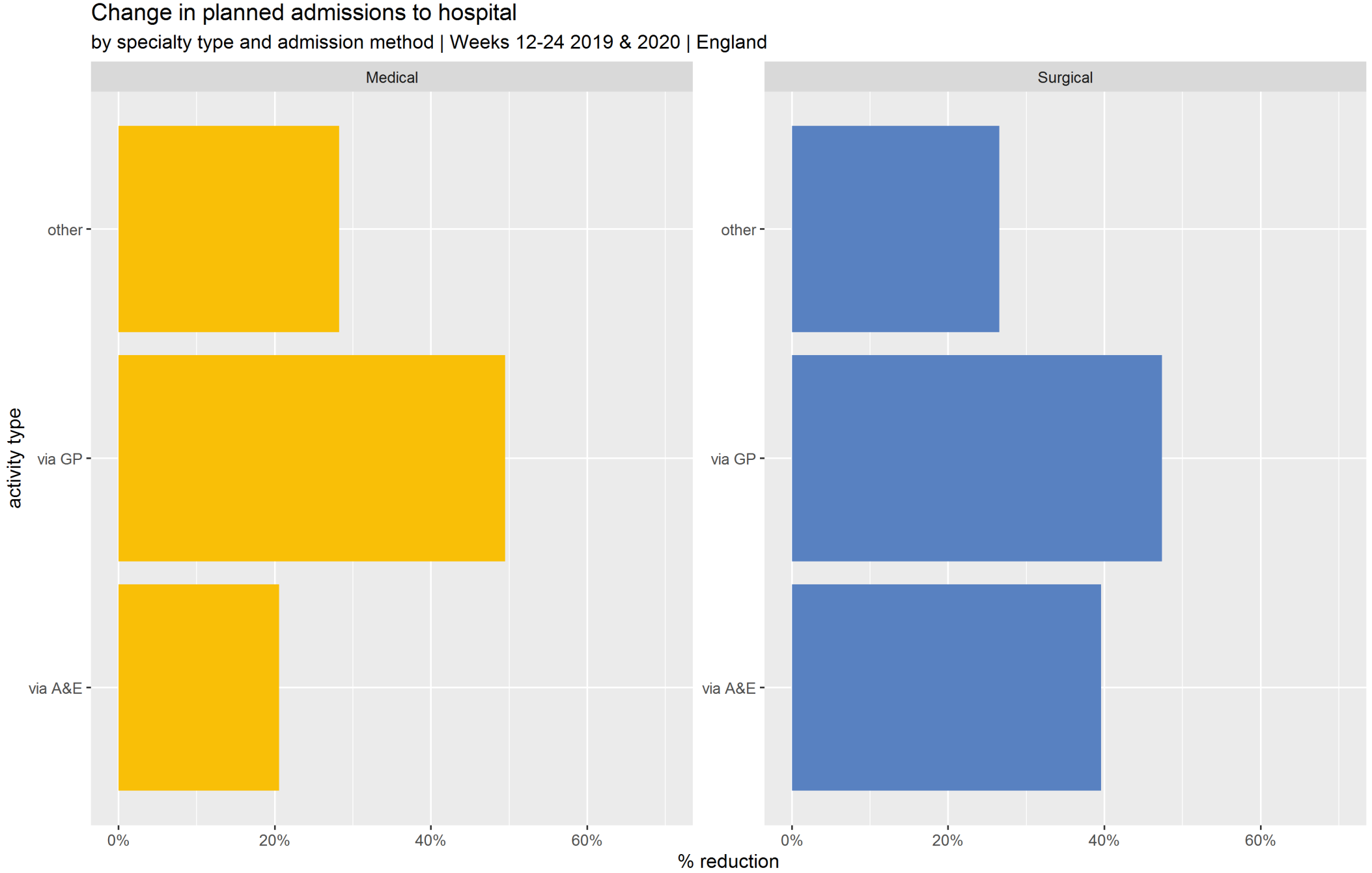


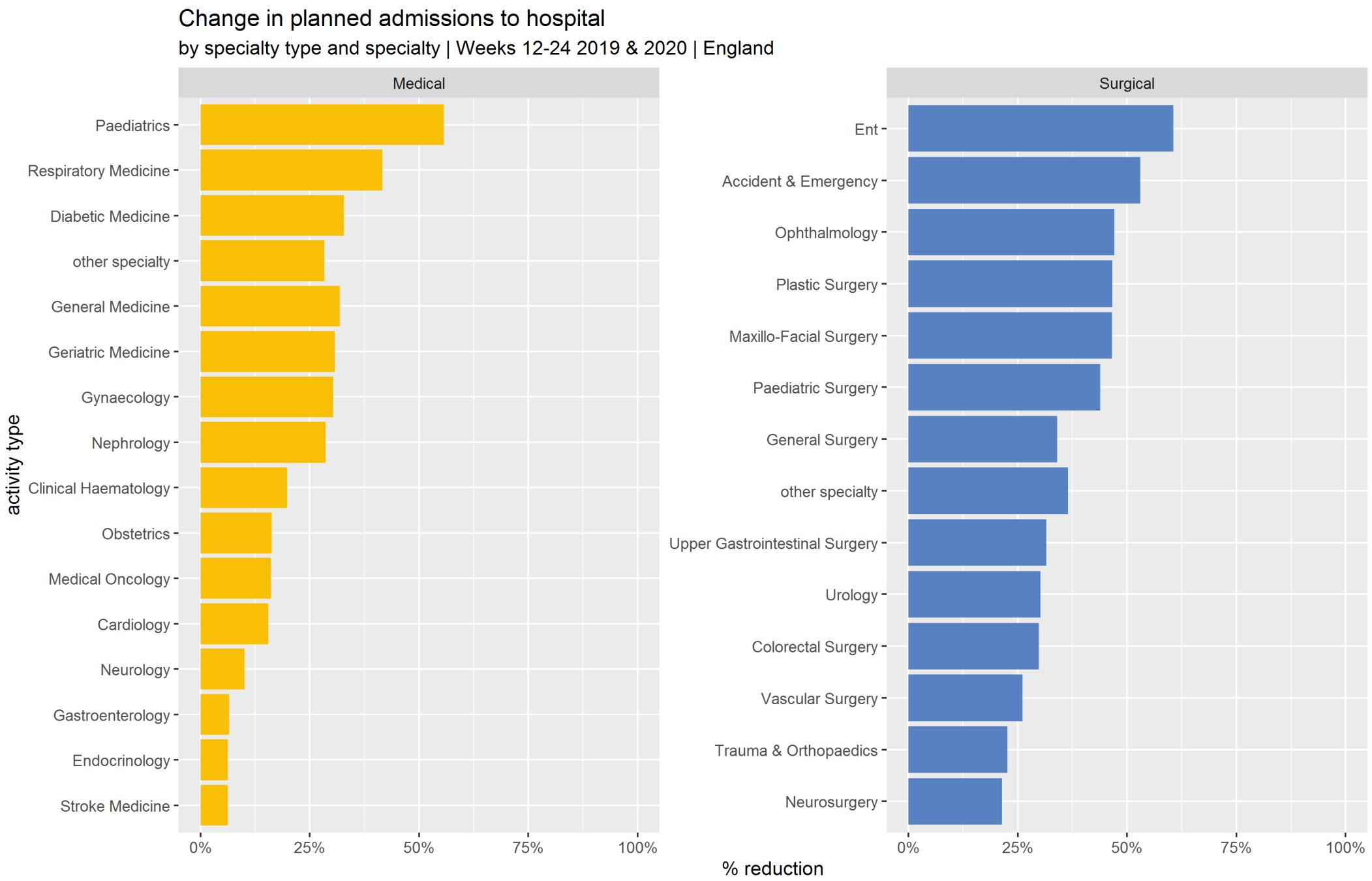
Emergency admissions to medical specialties a subset of acute hospitals

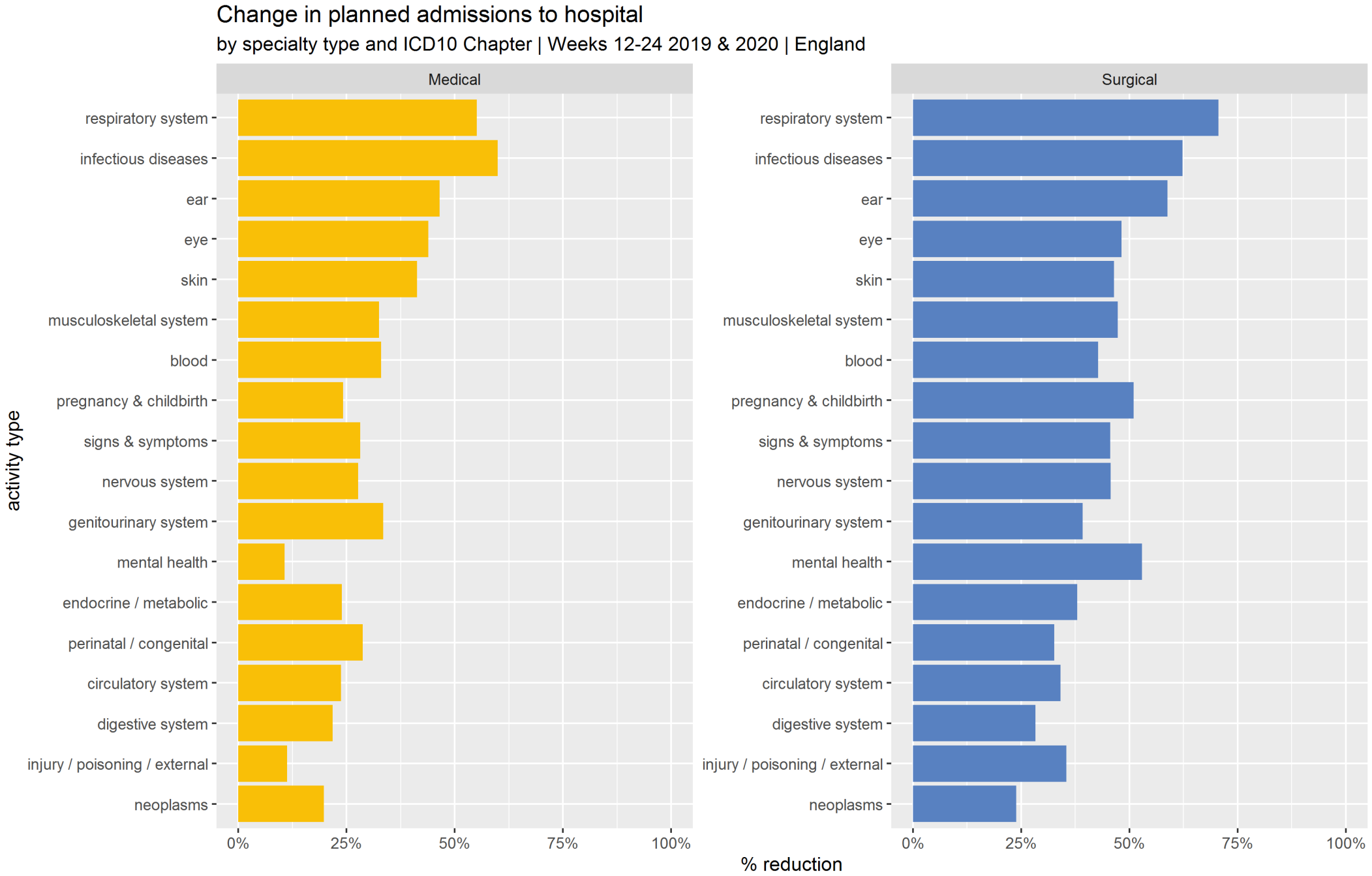
Admission to surgical specialties by age group | Weeks 1-24 2019 & 2020 | England

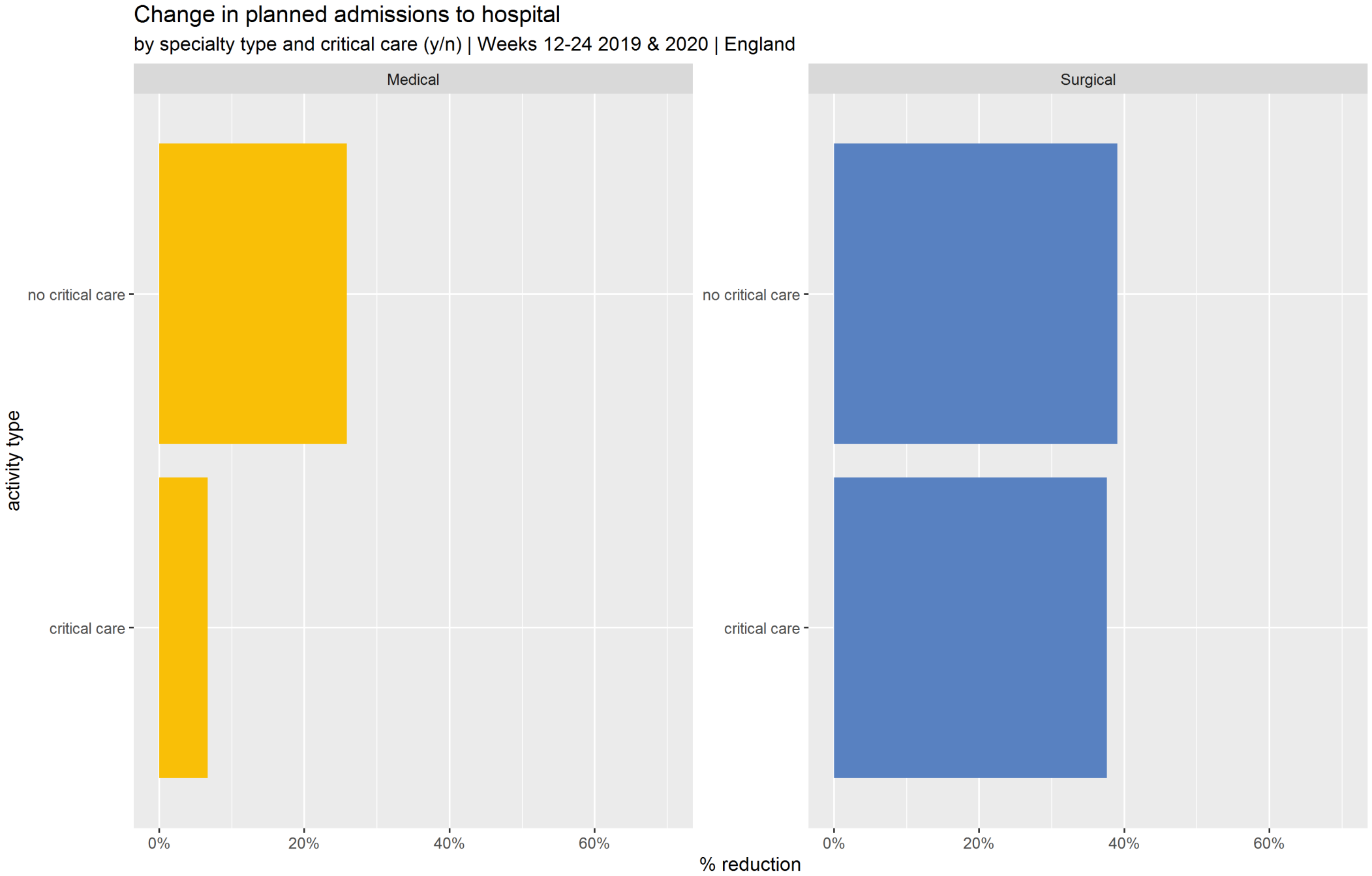


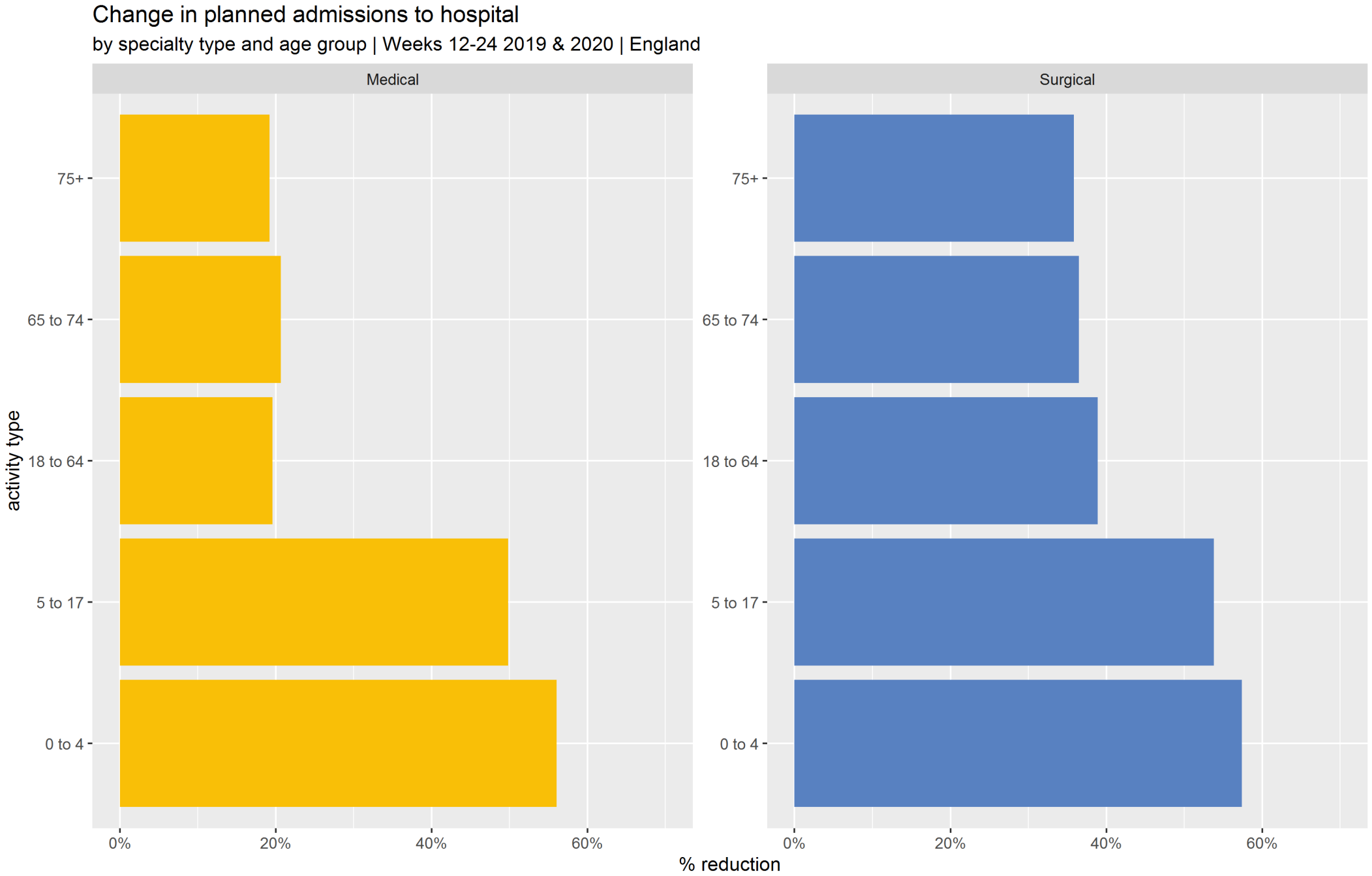
Relative changes


Change in planned admissions to hospital
by specialty type and admission method | Weeks 12-24 2019 & 2020 | England
Medical
Surgical
activity type
other
via GP
via A&E
0%
20%
40%
60%
% reduction


Change in planned admissions to hospital
by specialty type and specialty | Weeks 12-24 2019 & 2020 | England
Medical
Surgical
activity type
Paediatrics
Respiratory Medicine
Diabetic Medicine
other specialty
General Medicine
Geriatric Medicine
Gynaecology
Nephrology
Clinical Haematology
Obstetrics
Medical Oncology
Cardiology
Neurology
Gastroenterology
Endocrinology
Stroke Medicine
Ent
Accident & Emergency
Ophthalmology
Plastic Surgery
Maxillo-Facial Surgery
Paediatric Surgery
General Surgery
other specialty
Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery
Urology
Colorectal Surgery
Vascular Surgery
Trauma & Orthopaedics
Neurosurgery
0%
25%
50%
75%
100%
% reduction


Change in planned admissions to hospital
by specialty type and ICD10 Chapter | Weeks 12-24 2019 & 2020 | England
Medical
Surgical
activity type
respiratory system
infectious diseases
ear
eye
skin
musculoskeletal system
blood
pregnancy & childbirth
signs & symptoms
nervous system
genitourinary system
mental health
endocrine / metabolic
perinatal / congenital
circulatory system
digestive system
injury / poisoning / external
neoplasms
0%
25%
50%
75%
100%
% reduction


Change in planned admissions to hospital
by specialty type and critical care (y/n) | Weeks 12-24 2019 & 2020 | England
Medical
Surgical
no critical care
critical care
activity type
0%
20%
40%
60%
% reduction


Change in planned admissions to hospital
by specialty type and age group | Weeks 12-24 2019 & 2020 | England
Medical
Surgical
activity type
75+
65 to 74
18 to 64
5 to 17
0 to 4
0%
20%
40%
60%
% reduction

Notes

The data

The data used in this analysis is drawn from the SUSPlus_Live and SUS_Daily tables, supplied by the National Commissioning Data Repository (NCDR).

The analysis uses data from 72 hospital trusts that appear to have almost complete data up to the end of week 24.

It is possible that some patients admitted during the period covered by this analysis have not yet been discharged and may therefore not be included in the admission counts. This may result in a modest undercount of activity in the last weeks of the analysis.

Data on patient diagnoses was absent in approximately 3% of admissions in week 24. The proportions were substantially lower in earlier weeks.

For questions relating to this analysis, please contact:

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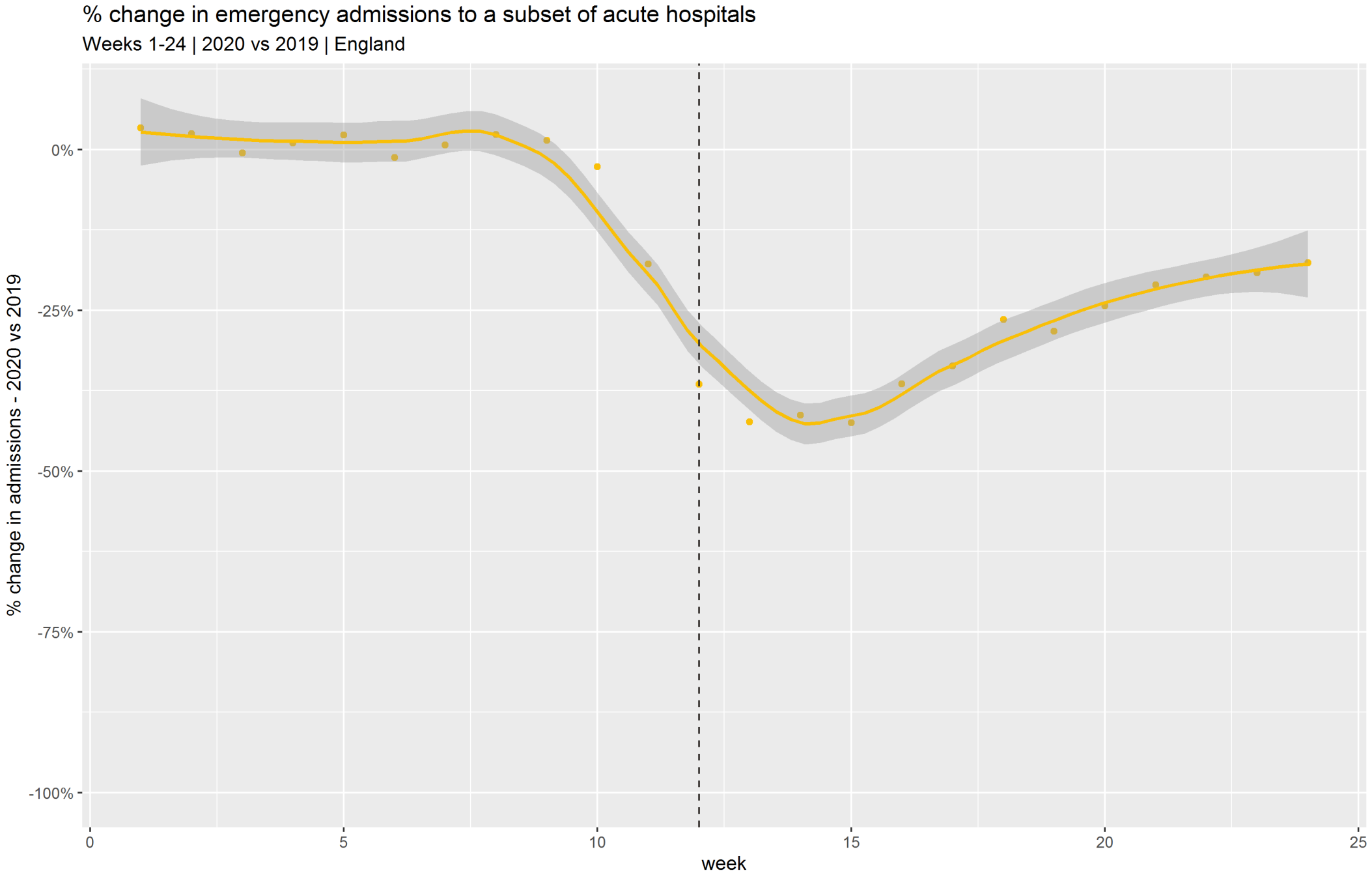
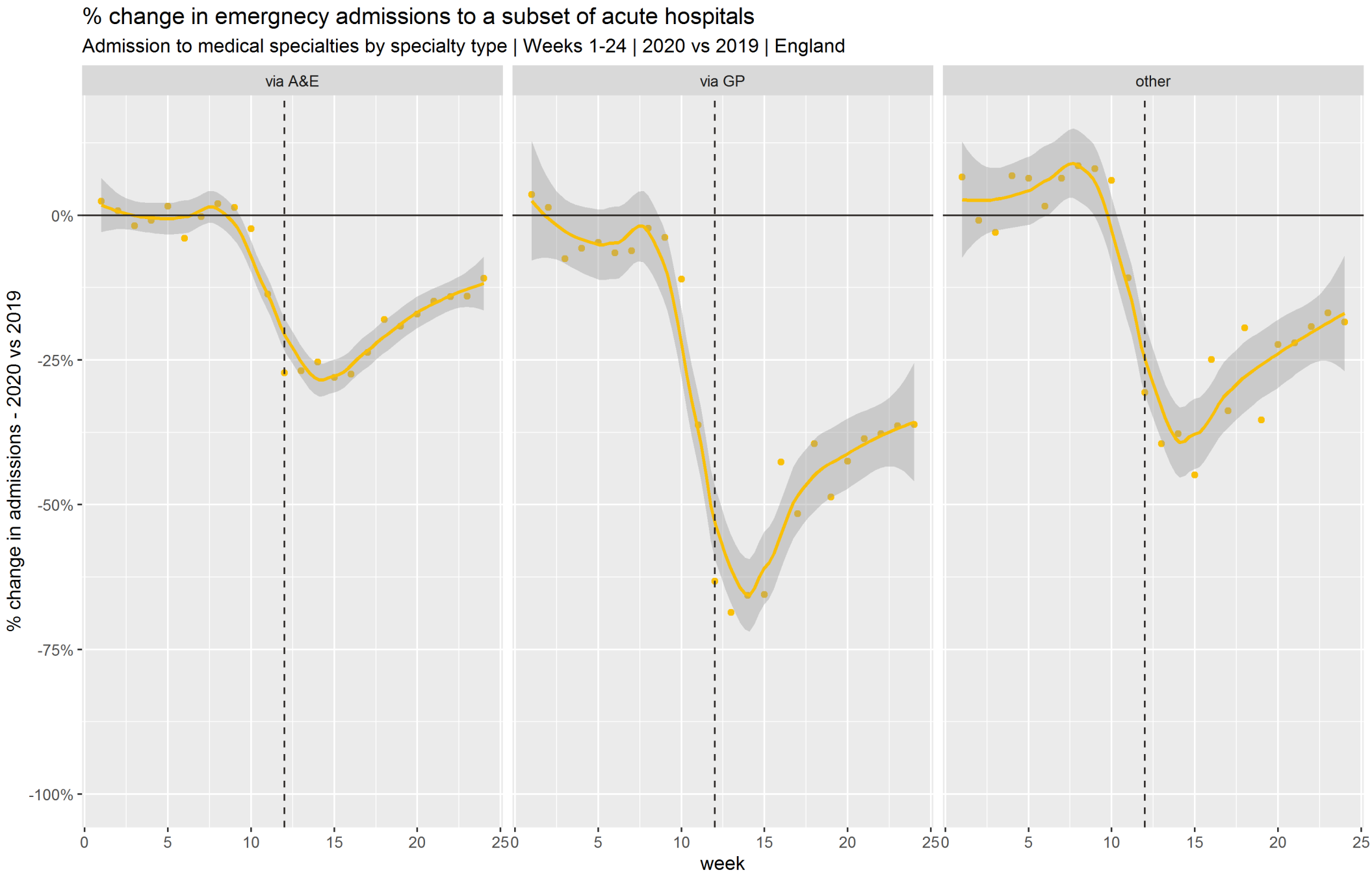
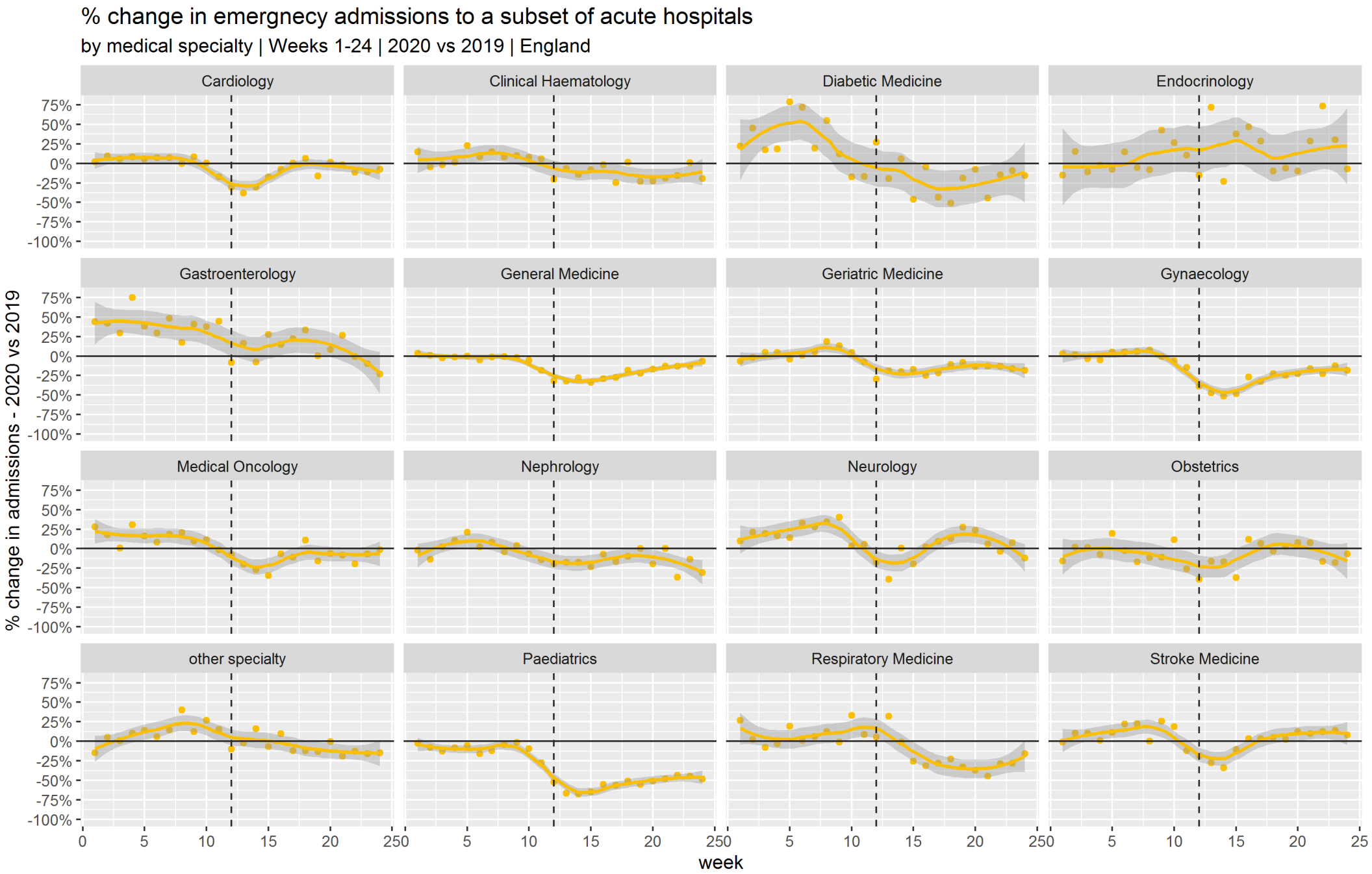
Twitter: @Strategy_Unit

Additional charts


% change in emergency admissions to a subset of acute hospitals
Weeks 1-24 | 2020 vs 2019 | England
% change in admissions - 2020 vs 2019
0%
-25%
-50%
-75%
-100%
0
5
10
15
20
25
week

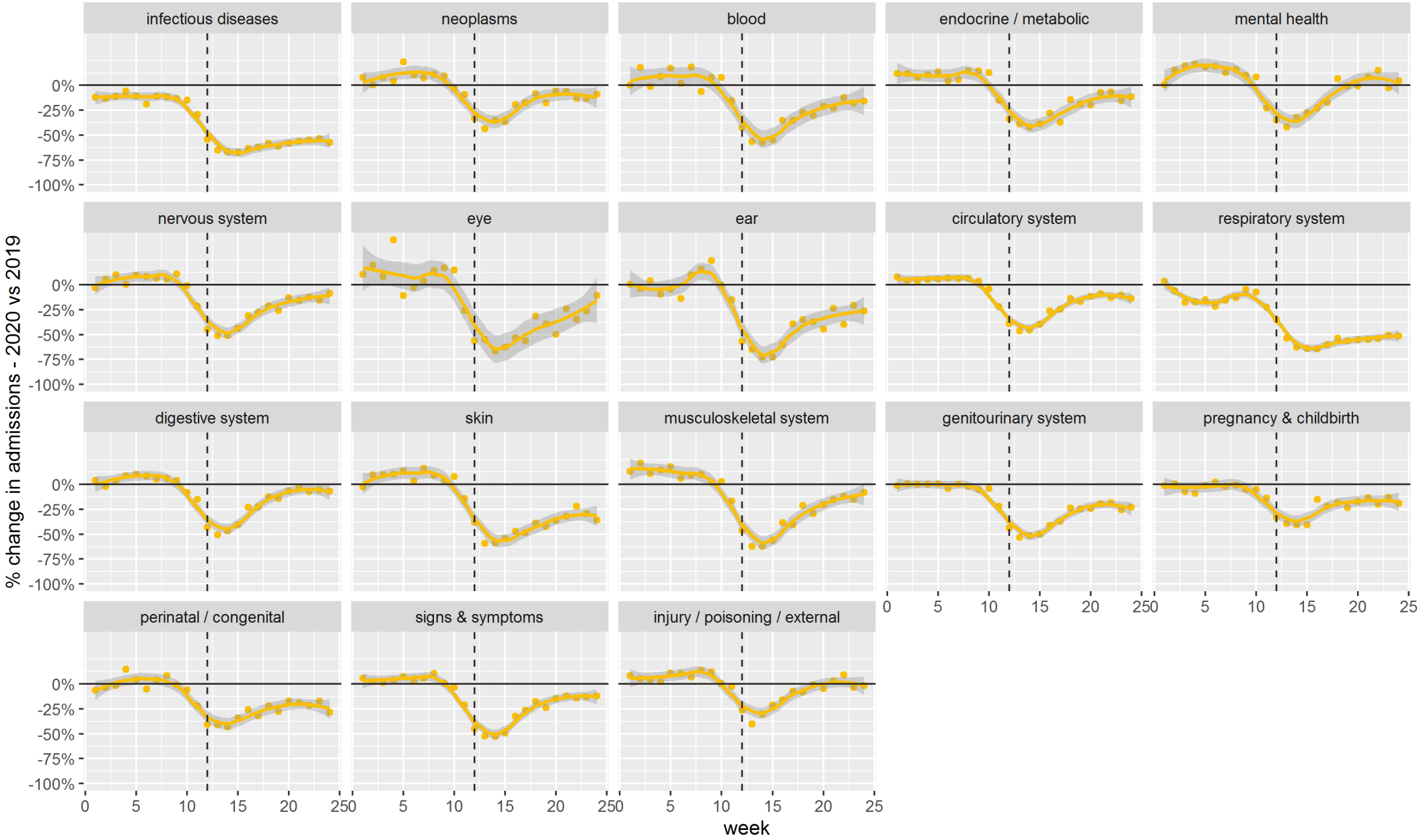

% change in emergnecy admissions to a subset of acute hospitals
by specialty type | Weeks 1-24 | 2020 vs 2019 | England
medical
surgical
other
0%
-25%
-50%
-75%
-100%
% change in admissions - 2020 vs 2019
0
5
10
15
20
25
week


% change in emergnecy admissions to a subset of acute hospitals
Admission to medical specialties by specialty type | Weeks 1-24 | 2020 vs 2019 | England
via A&E
via GP
other
0%
-25%
-50%
-75%
-100%
% change in admissions - 2020 vs 2019
0
5
10
15
20
25
week

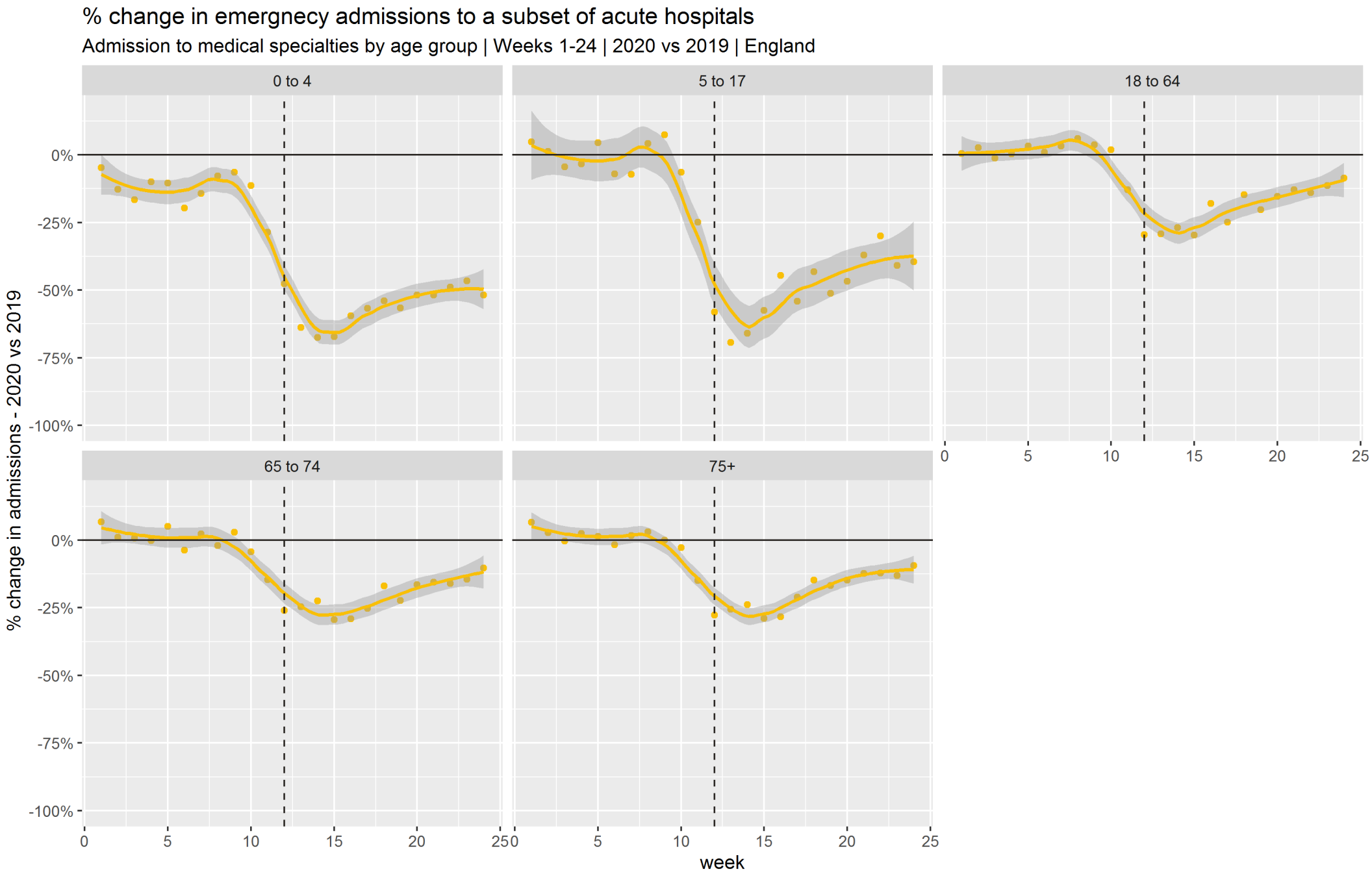

% change in emergnecy admissions to a subset of acute hospitals
by medical specialty | Weeks 1-24 | 2020 vs 2019 | England
Cardiology
Clinical Haematology
Diabetic Medicine
Endocrinology
Gastroenterology
General Medicine
Geriatric Medicine
Gynaecology
Medical Oncology
Nephrology
Neurology
Obstetrics
other specialty
Paediatrics
Respiratory Medicine
Stroke Medicine
% change in admissions - 2020 vs 2019
75%
50%
25%
0%
-25%
-50%
-75%
-100%
0
5
10
15
20
250
week

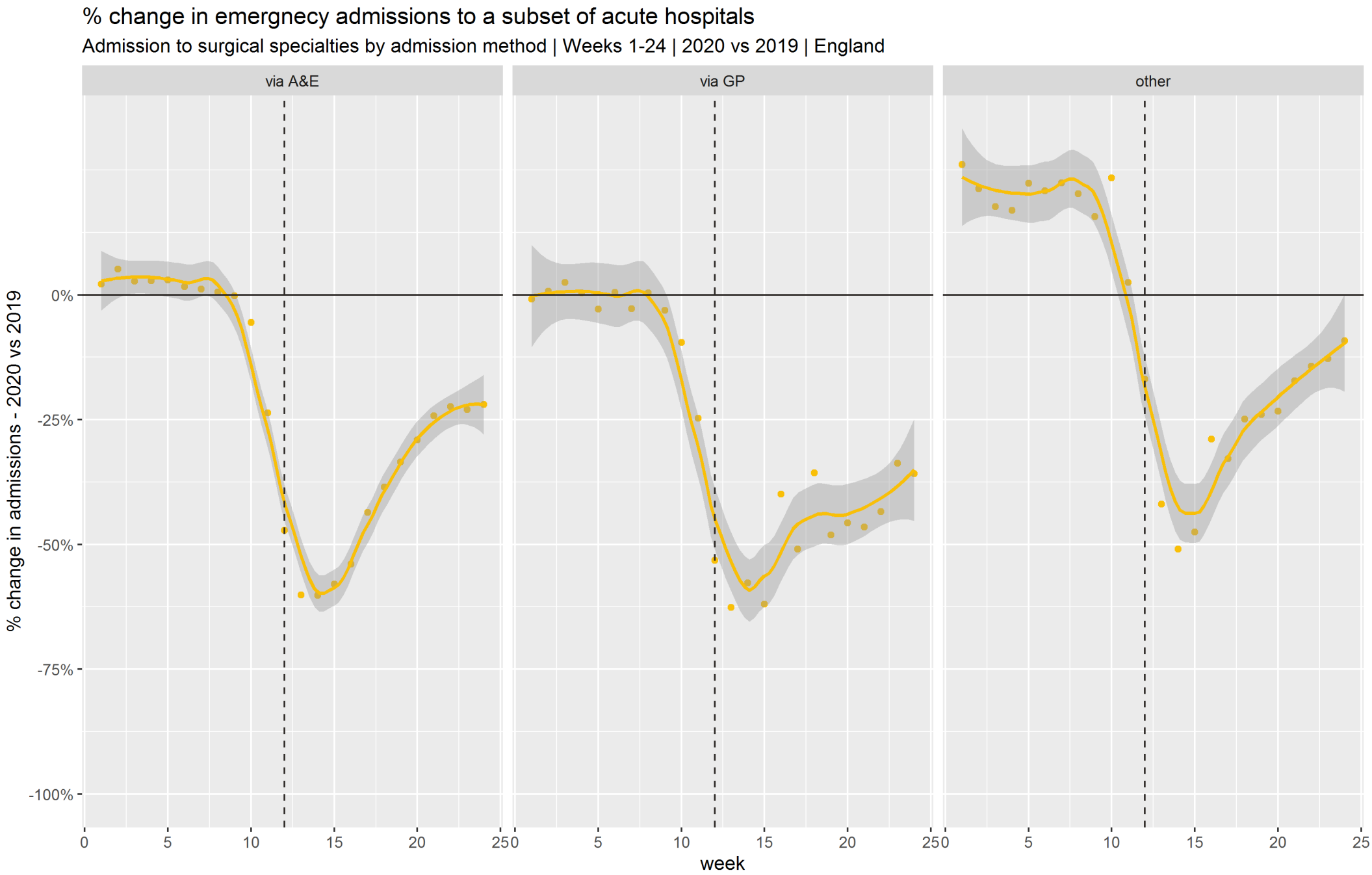
% change in emergnecy admissions to a subset of acute hospitals

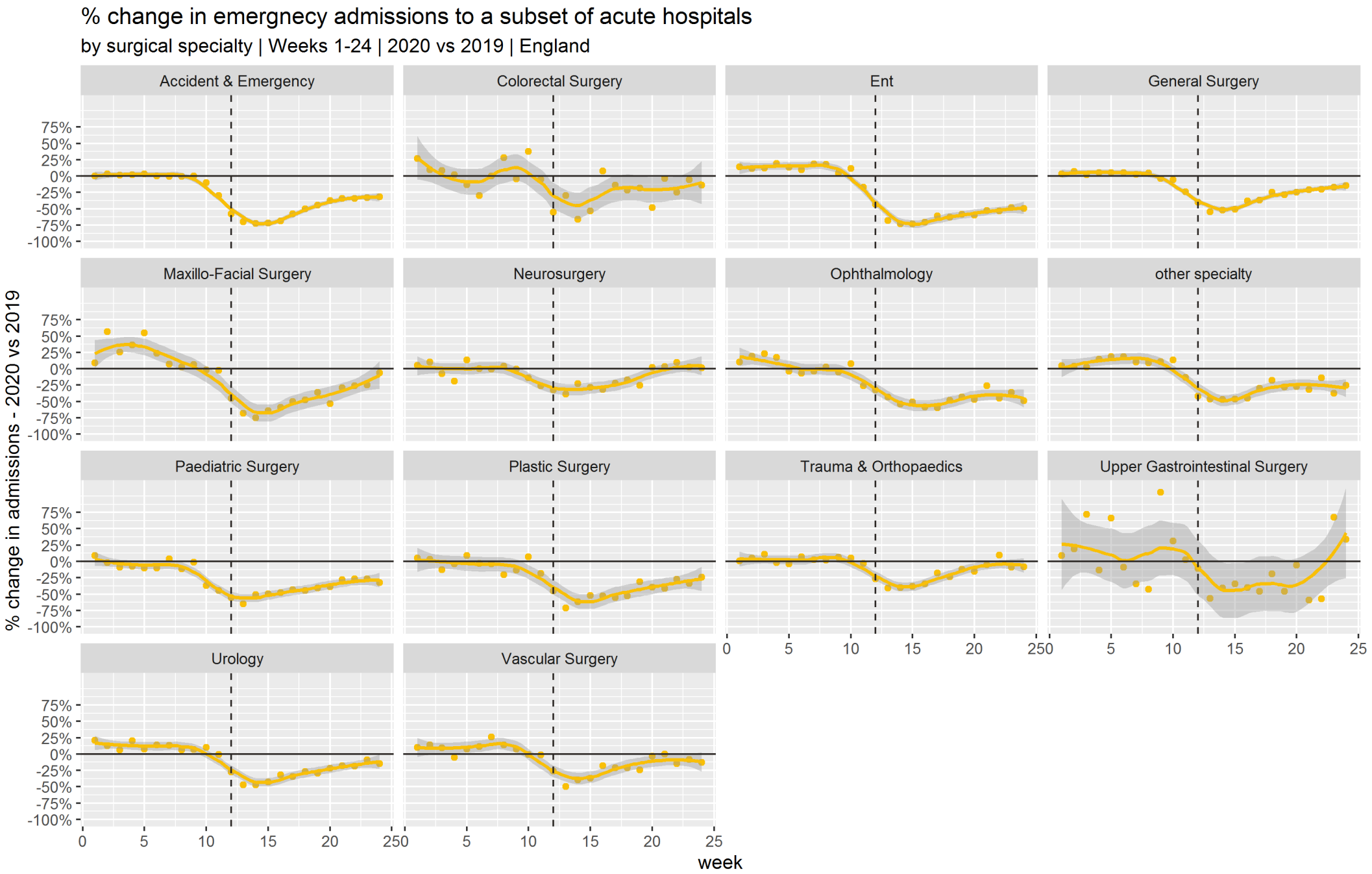
Admission to medical specialties by ICD10 chapter | Weeks 1-24 | 2020 vs 2019 | England



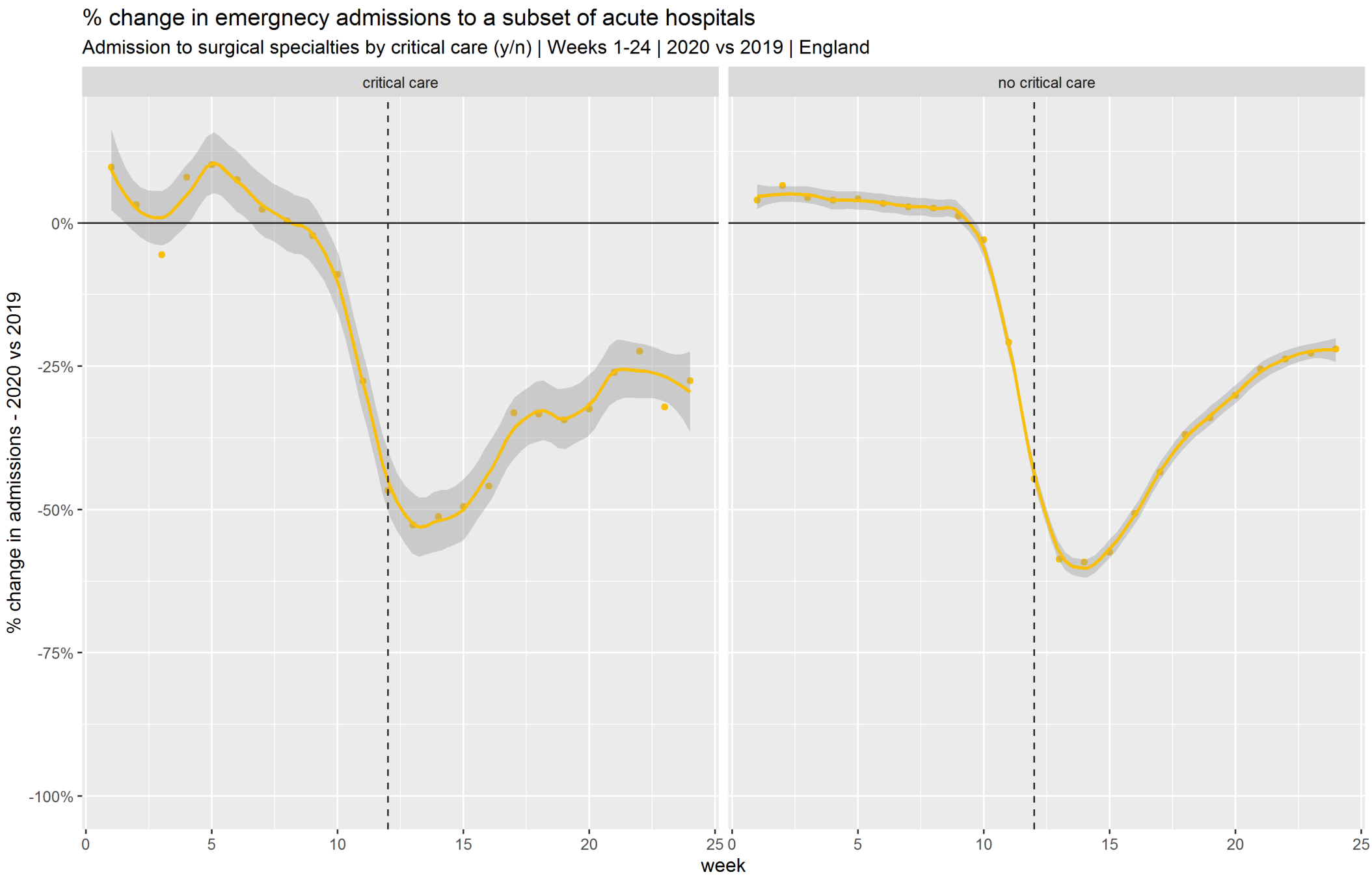

% change in emergnecy admissions to a subset of acute hospitals
Admission to medical specialties by critical care (y/n) | Weeks 1-24 | 2020 vs 2019 | England
critical care
no critical care
% change in admissions - 2020 vs 2019
50%
25%
0%
-25%
-50%
-75%
-100%
0
5
10
15
20
25
week

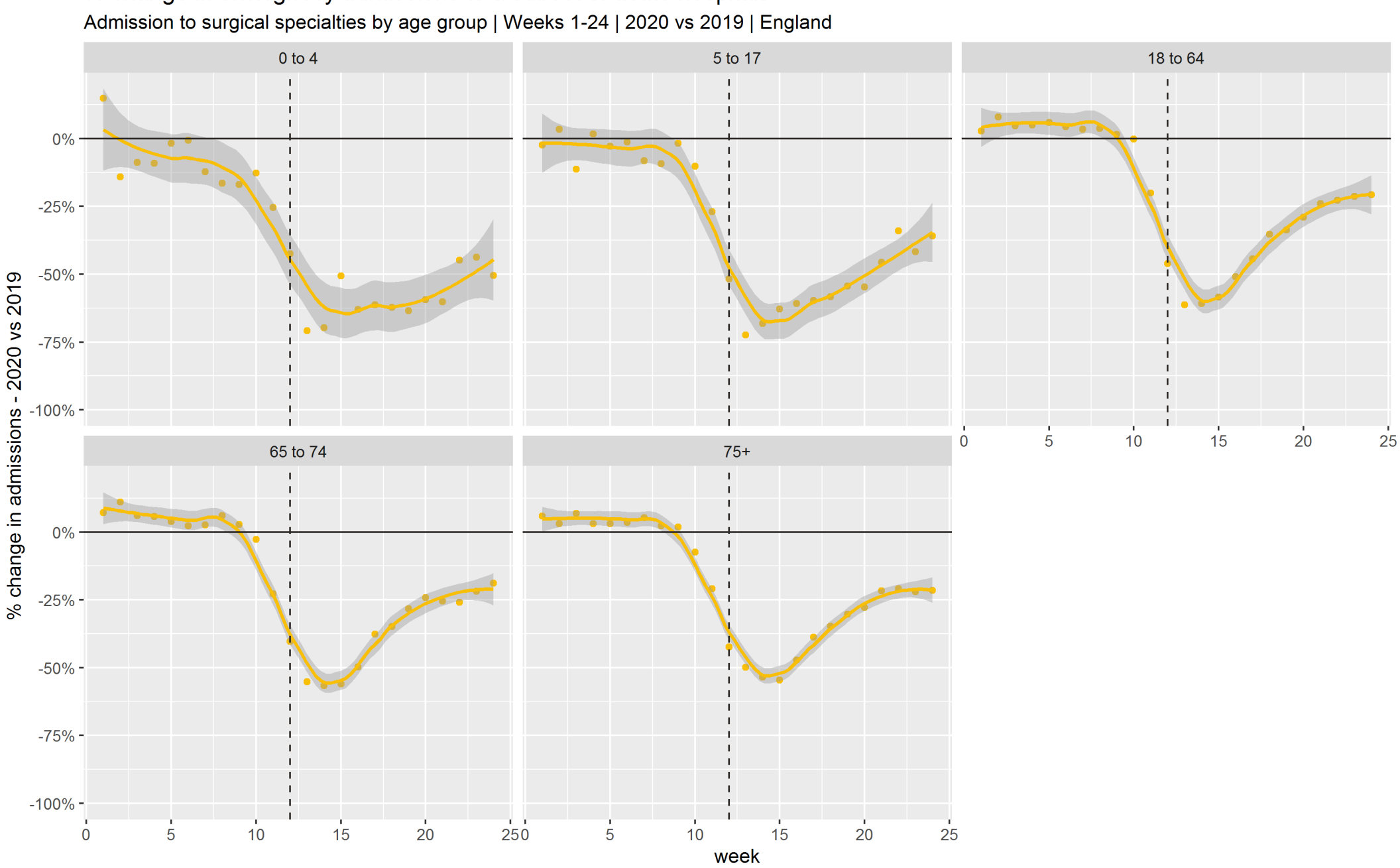

% change in emergnecy admissions to a subset of acute hospitals
Admission to medical specialties by age group | Weeks 1-24 | 2020 vs 2019 | England
0 to 4
5 to 17
18 to 64
65 to 74
75+
0%
-25%
-50%
-75%
-100%
% change in admissions - 2020 vs 2019
0
5
10
15
20
25
week


% change in emergnecy admissions to a subset of acute hospitals
Admission to surgical specialties by admission method | Weeks 1-24 | 2020 vs 2019 | England
via A&E
via GP
other
% change in admissions - 2020 vs 2019
0%
-25%
-50%
-75%
-100%
0
5
10
15
20
25
week


% change in emergnecy admissions to a subset of acute hospitals
by surgical specialty | Weeks 1-24 | 2020 vs 2019 | England
Accident & Emergency
Colorectal Surgery
Ent
General Surgery
Maxillo-Facial Surgery
Neurosurgery
Ophthalmology
other specialty
Paediatric Surgery
Plastic Surgery
Trauma & Orthopaedics
Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery
Urology
Vascular Surgery
% change in admissions - 2020 vs 2019
75%
50%
25%
0%
-25%
-50%
-75%
-100%
0
5
10
15
20
250
25
week


% change in emergnecy admissions to a subset of acute hospitals
Admission to surgical specialties by ICD10 chapter | Weeks 1-24 | 2020 vs 2019 | England
infectious diseases
neoplasms
blood
endocrine / metabolic
mental health
nervous system
eye
ear
circulatory system
respiratory system
digestive system
skin
musculoskeletal system
genitourinary system
pregnancy & childbirth
perinatal / congenital
signs & symptoms
injury / poisoning / external
0%
-25%
-50%
-75%
-100%
% change in admissions - 2020 vs 2019
0
5
10
15
20
250
25
week


% change in emergnecy admissions to a subset of acute hospitals
Admission to surgical specialties by critical care (y/n) | Weeks 1-24 | 2020 vs 2019 | England
critical care
no critical care
% change in admissions - 2020 vs 2019
0%
-25%
-50%
-75%
-100%
0
5
10
15
20
25
week


% change in emergnecy admissions to a subset of acute hospitals
Admission to surgical specialties by age group | Weeks 1-24 | 2020 vs 2019 | England
0 to 4
5 to 17
18 to 64
65 to 74
75+
% change in admissions - 2020 vs 2019
0%
-25%
-50%
-75%
-100%
0
5
10
15
20
25
week