

# Publication Summary



## Scottish Trauma Audit Group

### Audit of Trauma Management in Scotland 2015 Reporting on 2013-14

Publication date – 27 October 2015

#### About this Release

The Scottish Trauma Audit Group (STAG) 2015 Annual Report includes data from 2013 and 2014 and provides a comprehensive summary of the type and severity of trauma as well as information on the patient journey and outcome. For the first time, STAG publishes data on Quality Indicator compliance and reports this at hospital level. The report also contains information about STAGs key objectives prior to the introduction of a Major Trauma Service in Scotland in 2016.

#### Key Points

- A total of 19 out of 32 hospitals with an Emergency Department submitted data to STAG in 2013-2014. Data on 5930 patients are included in this report and 1278 (22%) of these patients are classified as having major trauma.
- Men make up the majority of trauma patients (59%), and this rises to 70% for major trauma patients. A higher proportion of injuries to men are due to assault, falls from a height of over two metres and motor vehicle accidents. Women have more injuries due to low falls.
- There is evidence to suggest alcohol is involved in 1 in 5 of minor trauma patients rising to 1 in 3 of major trauma patients. Alcohol was either ingested by the trauma patient or by another person involved in the trauma incident.
- 30% of major trauma patients are transferred to another hospital, primarily for Neurological or Spinal Injury care. After the introduction of the Major Trauma Service in 2016, most of these patients will be taken directly to a Major Trauma Centre where all the specialist services will be available.
- 30% of patients require more than two weeks of inpatient hospital care.
- 6% of all trauma patients died in hospital and this mortality rate rose to around 1 in 5 (22%) for patients suffering major trauma. One hospital (Inverclyde Royal Hospital) has been identified as having a potentially higher than expected mortality rate for trauma patients and the hospital is commissioning an internal review of this result.
- A range of quality indicators have been included for the first time and there is considerable variation between hospitals regarding compliance against these indicators. STAG will be working closely with hospitals to understand what is causing this variation.

## Background

The Scottish Trauma Audit Group is a national audit within the Scottish Healthcare Audits programme at the Information Services Division of NHS National Services Scotland. STAG recommenced an audit of trauma in 2011 with the aim of improving the quality of care, overall experience and long term outcome of patients with significant injuries through measuring compliance against standards of care to support local quality improvement.

In 2014 injury was the commonest cause of death for those under the age of 45 years and the third most common cause of death for those aged less than 55 years, after neoplasm and diseases of the circulatory system<sup>1</sup>. Injury creates a considerable burden for the NHS in Scotland with unintentional injuries accounting for approximately 1 in 8 emergency hospital admissions for children and 1 in 10 emergency admissions for adults in Scotland in the years 2012-2013<sup>2</sup>.

Within the report we describe trauma in three groups: minor, moderate and major, however it is important to remember that the "minor" group of patients have to have been injured severely enough to spend a minimum of three days in hospital or have died as a consequence of their injuries. Although there are many more admissions to our hospitals as a consequence of an injury, this audit focuses on the most severely injured end of the spectrum.

The audit is undergoing redevelopment due to the introduction of a Major Trauma Service in Scotland in 2016. Six key recommendations by the National Planning Forum Major Trauma Subgroup at the Scottish Government are either complete or being progressed.

## Contacts

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Further information can be found in the full report on the audit website [www.stag.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.stag.scot.nhs.uk).

## References

1. Deaths, numbers and rates by sex, age and cause, Scotland 2014.  
Available: <http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/vital-events-ref-tables/2014/section-6/14-vital-events-ref-tabs-6-2.pdf>
2. Unintentional injuries ISD report 2014.  
Available: <https://isdscotland.scot.nhs.uk/Health-Topics/Emergency-Care/Publications/2014-02-25/2014-02-25-UI-Report.pdf?97723025084>

### About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up. Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves. [www.isdscotland.org/](http://www.isdscotland.org/)