

Hip Fracture Care Pathway Report 2016

Musculoskeletal Audit

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About this release

This release from Information Service Division reports on findings from the Musculoskeletal (MSk) Audit, Hip Fracture Care Pathway. Care of patients admitted with a hip fracture between October 2015 and January 2016 was audited, measuring improvement following the introduction of 'Scottish Standards of Care for Hip Fracture Patients' (2015). All hospitals in Scotland who manage this condition contributed data to the report.

Main Points

- Patients are being transferred more quickly from the Emergency Department to a ward (60% within three hours) which is particularly important for these often frail and elderly patients.
- Screening for the presence of delirium has improved from 22% in 2013 to 44% in 2015/16, which allows early management of this distressing condition.
- Comprehensive assessment by a specialist geriatric service is key to ensuring a positive outcome. Previously 80% of patients experienced a delay in seeing these specialists but this has improved to 40% still experiencing a delay.
- 70% of patients have their fracture repaired within 36 hours of admission.
- Repeated fasting of patients prior to surgery should be avoided. One in five patients are fasted more than once in preparation for theatre. NHS Boards are examining current practice to address this.
- Getting patients mobilised earlier is key to faster discharge from hospital. One in five patients continue to have a delay in initial mobilisation following repair of their fracture.
- Formal assessment of patients' bone health, which is important in reducing future risk of fractures, has increased to 75% of patients.
- More patients are returning to their usual place of residence within 30 days of admission to hospital (60% in 2015/15 compared to 50% in 2013).
- The average length of total hospital stay has decreased from 22 to 17 days.

Background

Hip fracture is the most common, serious orthopaedic injury to affect the elderly, with more than 6,000 patients admitted to hospital in Scotland each year. The burden of hip fracture in Scotland is likely to increase significantly over the coming decade as a consequence of the number of elderly people in the population increasing. It is essential that this injury is managed as effectively and efficiently as possible, primarily for the benefit of patients, but also for the optimum use of NHS resources.

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Further Information

The Scottish Hip Fracture Audit and Advisory Group has plans to further improve the format of the audit, with an aim to collect data for every hip fracture patient admitted to hospital in Scotland aged over 50 on an on-going basis. This will give further insight into the elements of care that have an overall impact on patient outcomes.

The full publication is available to [download here](#)

For more information on Musculoskeletal Audits see the [Audits website](#)