

Processes for Urgent Referral to the Trauma and Orthopaedic Service at the Major Trauma Centre at the Royal Sussex County Hospital

Control Page

Name:	Processes for Urgent Referral to the Trauma and Orthopaedic Service at the Major Trauma Centre at Royal Sussex County Hospital
Version:	1 - ACTIVE
Category and number:	
Approved by:	
Date approved:	
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Date issued:	30/09/2021
Target review date:	24 months
Target audience:	Who does this apply to? All specialities dealing with Major Trauma (UHSussex and Network TUs)
Accessibility	www.bsuh.nhs.uk/stn/docs/

Processes for Urgent Referral to the Trauma and Orthopaedic Service at the Major Trauma Centre at the Royal Sussex County Hospital (RSCH)

This is a trauma and orthopaedic (T&O) specialist referral pathway and should be used in conjunction with the current versions of the following Sussex Trauma Network documents, which can be viewed at: <https://www.bsuh.nhs.uk/stn/docs/>:

- Repatriation Policy
- Patient Pathway – see Secondary Transfer Protocols

It defines the process for orthopaedic referral for advice and/or transfer from the Trauma Units within Sussex and should not be used for patients requiring immediate transfers (<60mins) or with life threatening conditions – see the Sussex Trauma Network Patient Pathway.

This is not for Hand or Paediatric referrals.

1. Either:
 - Ensure that all radiology images have been transferred over to the RSCH PACS system before the referral has been made

OR

- Confirm radiology imaging access is in place from RSCH.
2. If there is an open wound, take a photograph for use in the next stage.
3. Complete the relevant electronic online referral form. There are three possible forms that can be found on the following webpage on the old BSUH Intranet <https://www.bsuh.nhs.uk/clinical/teams-and-departments/trauma-and-orthopaedics/>. These can **ONLY** be accessed from hospital computers.

In the section 'External referrals choose one of these three and complete the relevant electronic form:

- Complex trauma service
- Pelvic and acetabular fracture service
- Pathological fracture service

Attach any photographs to the electronic form.

4. Then make a telephone referral in person by phone either from a Trauma and Orthopaedic (T&O) Registrar to the on-call T&O Registrar at RSCH (01273 696955 bleep 8629) or from a T&O Consultant to the on call T&O Consultant at RSCH.

The email address receiving the online referral form is monitored Mon-Fri by the Trauma co-ordinators and by the on-call team over the weekend. We aim to provide a swift response from the relevant Consultant team within 48 hrs

5. If **urgent** transfer is required, the on-call T&O Consultant at the RSCH will approve blue light transfer to RSCH Emergency Department (ED) and the T&O Registrar/ Consultant will let the RSCH ED know the patient is coming, following receipt of the call and online referral.
6. For all opinions, or delayed transfers, following receipt of a phone call and the completed electronic referral, the patient will be presented at the next morning trauma meeting and a management plan will be formulated.

Details of the plan will be fed back to the referring hospital/team via the contact details provided in the electronic referral.

7. If there is any difference of opinion on advice given, or if any further details are required, then the referring Consultant should call the on-call T&O Consultant at RSCH or the Consultant who has provided the opinion.
8. If the patient is accepted for management at RSCH, the respective bed managers will be notified by the individual teams and the transfer should take place prior to the date of surgery. Any delays should be escalated to the on-call Consultants.
9. When the patient's surgical management has been completed and the patient is medically fit, they will either be repatriated back to the referring hospital under the care of the original referring consultant once the patient is stable or discharged home directly.
10. **Repatriation back to the referring hospital will be managed by the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) team as defined in the Sussex Trauma Network Repatriation Policy and will not necessitate a further Consultant to Consultant discussion unless clinically indicated.**