

Major Trauma Centres: what they mean for patients and next of kin

**“Good trauma care involves getting the patient to the right place at the right time
for the right care”**

Information for you the Patient and your Family/Carer

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This paper has been modified from an, as yet, unpublished document written by the author for NHS England’s Major Trauma Clinical Reference Group, as part of their “patient friendly” information, and is published with the permission of Professor Chris Moran, National Clinical Director for Trauma. (Nick Welch)

1. Introduction to the Major Trauma Service

Major trauma is the leading cause of death in people under the age of 45 and is a serious public health issue. Traditionally a seriously injured person has been taken to their nearest Emergency Department. In many cases local hospitals do not have all the services to care for seriously injured patients. According to a National Audit Office report about a quarter of the injured people die of their injuries. Many others are permanently disabled. A patient’s chance recovery maybe greatly improved by sending them to a major trauma service.

In 2010 an NHS Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) gave detailed guidance on the setting up of this trauma care service. It said that in developing regional trauma services all providers of Trauma Care must provide for care from pre-hospital through to rehabilitation, and discharge. The service must be capable of assessing and treating both adults and children.

In 2012 every region in England opened one or more Major Trauma Centres (MTCs), except London where the MTCs opened in 2010, after consultations that followed Lord Darzi’s NHS ‘The Next Stage Review’. Development of the MTCs will continue in 2014/15.

There are many very comprehensive guidelines from organisations such as National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), NHS England and the British Orthopaedic Association Standards for Trauma (BOAST) on the standards necessary to treat seriously injured people.

2. Why make this change?

The aim of setting up Major Trauma Centres is to make sure that seriously injured patients can be treated quickly and efficiently by all the specialised services that will have all the necessary equipment to hand. It is expected that more patients will survive and make a full recovery.

Major trauma means serious injuries that could result in death or serious disability. These are commonly caused by falls, road traffic collisions, industrial accidents and, on rare occasions, violence. For example:

- traumatic injury requiring amputation of a limb,
- severe knife and gunshot wounds,

- major head injury,
- multiple injuries to different parts of the body e.g. chest and abdominal injury with a fractured pelvis,
- spinal injury,
- severe burns

These sorts of severe and complex injuries are quite rare: only 0.1% of all patients treated by Emergency Departments are major trauma cases and even a Major Trauma Centre may only see one case per day.

As major trauma is so uncommon and so complex to manage, it is not possible for all hospitals to have all the specialist doctors needed to treat such very poorly patients appropriately.

Therefore, patients with multiple, complex and serious major trauma injuries should be taken directly to or be transferred to a Major Trauma Centre.

3. Who sets the standards?

The Major Trauma Clinical Reference Group, on behalf of the NHS in England, sets challenging standards for the Major Trauma Centres to deliver. These are based on expert opinion, latest medical research and including guidelines from organisations such as NICE, the Royal Colleges, Brain Trauma Foundation, and the BOA. The standards set for 2014/15 will help further improve the service.

The NHS in England will provide financial incentives to MTCs to perform using a scheme known as a “Commissioning for Quality and Innovation” (CQUIN). The CQUIN links successful delivery of specific outcomes and actions with the amount of money the MTC receives. This means the better they treat patients the better they will be funded.

4. What this means for you

A serious injury can be life threatening and may cause a big change in your life style during, and after, your recovery. This new system has been developed to try and ensure you make the best possible recovery.

The Major Trauma Centres are committed to maintaining a fully staffed hospital with the most senior doctors and specialised staff immediately available to meet the challenge of any serious injury. It is not possible for every hospital to have all the specialists necessary to maintain this service available all the time. This means you may find that you are taken to a hospital further from home than your nearest hospital, or, if taken to the nearest hospital they may rapidly transfer you to a MTC. The ambulance service team who attend the scene of your accident will take this decision. They have been specially trained to assess how badly you are hurt and choose which the most appropriate Hospital to rush you to is.

If you are seriously injured and rushed to a MTC, the Police or the MTC will make every effort to contact your next of kin, so that they can be kept informed of the situation as it develops. There are people at the MTCs whose responsibility it is to liaise with next of kin, and support them through this difficult time. The

Care Team at the MTC will talk to you and your next of kin or carer to ensure that you are kept up to date about your condition, your recovery and the date you will be discharged.

The MTC staff will provide you with all the information you need in a format you can most easily understand. This will include information about the Team that is treating you, what treatment and therapy is planned for you, what will happen when you leave the MTC, and any contact numbers for you or family/carer to use when seeking information about your progress.

Because you have been seriously hurt, your discharge from the MTC may not always be directly to your home; you may be transferred back to your local hospital for further treatment closer to home, to a highly specialised centre such as a Spinal Cord Injury Centre or to a Rehabilitation Centre. In this instance, your records will be sent to your local hospital, so that your clinicians will know the background to your condition and will be able to plan your further treatment in hospital and after your discharge -including clear plans for your on-going rehabilitation (this is called a “rehabilitation prescription”). Your needs and opinions will be discussed with you and your family/carer before a final decision is made.

Precisely which hospitals have Major Trauma Centres is still evolving. This list is, therefore, at best a guide. More up to date information can be found on the internet.

The Major Trauma Centres

Addenbrooke’s Hospital, Cambridge (Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust)

Southmead Hospitals, Bristol (North Bristol NHS Trust)

Bristol Children's Hospital

Derriford Hospital, Plymouth (Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust)

James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough (South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust)

Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle (The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust)

John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford (Oxford Radcliffe University Hospital NHS Trust)

Southampton General Hospital, Southampton (University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust)

Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton (Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust)

Leeds General Infirmary, Leeds (The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust)

Hull Royal Infirmary (Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Trust)

Northern General Hospital, Sheffield (Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust)

Sheffield Children’s Hospital, Sheffield (Sheffield Children’s NHS Foundation Trust)

Queen’s Medical Centre, Nottingham (Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust)

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham (University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Trust)

University Hospital Coventry (University Hospitals Coventry Warwickshire NHS Trust)

University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust Stoke on Trent

Birmingham Children’s Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Royal Preston Hospital, Preston (Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust)

Alder Hey Children’s Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool

Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Manchester (Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust)

Manchester collaborative Major Trauma Centre

- a. Salford Royal NHS Trust
- b. Manchester Royal Infirmary
- c. University Hospital South Manchester

Liverpool Collaborative Major Trauma Centre

- a. Aintree University Hospital
- b. Walton Centre
- c. Royal Liverpool University Hospital

London Trauma Network

- a. St Georges Hospital
- b. St Mary's Hospital
- c. Kings College Hospital
- d. The Royal London Hospital