

FOI 2921

17th April 2025**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

Question 1. In your organisation, are there guidelines for the clinical management of adults with either rib fractures, chest wall trauma or blunt chest wall trauma?

Response:

There are national guidelines which we would use e.g. NICE guideline [NG39]. However, training is delivered for staff in the form of either ATLS or European trauma courses for major trauma including chest wall injuries. Senior staff are in the Emergency Department 24/7 and have had training for chest wall trauma. Junior staff are often involved in chest wall trauma in a supervised role.

Question 2. Which clinical team(s) are patients with isolated rib fractures, chest wall trauma or blunt chest wall trauma admitted under?

Response:

Patients with isolated rib fractures generally do not need to be admitted. Chest wall trauma patients requiring local admission are admitted under the care of the surgical team. Severe injuries or multisystem injuries are transferred to the regional Major Trauma Centre, the Royal Victoria hospital.

Question 3. Can you please attach a copy of your most recent guideline(s) for the clinical management of adults with rib fractures, chest wall trauma or blunt chest wall trauma

Response:

See above regarding NICE guidance.

Question 4. In your organisation, is there a dedicated service/ team providing chest wall nerve blocks for rib fracture patients?

Response:

Yes, the anaesthetic team.

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