

**Central England Trauma Network**  
**Adult Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury Pathway**

**The principle aim is to protect the spinal cord from further damage and to minimise secondary complications**

**Pre Hospital**

Patients who present with paralysis following trauma should be taken to the MTC (Stage 2 Triage Tool) unless medical stabilisation is required at a TU. The Hyperacute Pathway for Transfer should then be followed.

**Trauma Units (TU)**

All patients presenting with neurological deficit following trauma should be discussed with the MTC. Those with moderate to severe neurological deficit should be transferred on the hyperacute pathway.  
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 If the deficit is mild the plan should be agreed and may be to stay at the TU and for them to liaise directly with Stoke Mandeville regarding further management needs

**Major Trauma Centre (MTC)**

Diagnosis: Trauma CT Imaging followed by MRI

UHCW on call team for spines should have a telephone discussion with the appropriate linked Spinal Cord Injury Centre within 4 hours of diagnosis of injury.

- **Coventry & Warwickshire** patients: Oswestry SCIC 01691 404000
- **Northamptonshire** patients: Stoke Mandeville SCIC 01296 315000
- Patients from outside these areas should, in the first instance, be discussed with Oswestry.

*Advice will be given on operative v non operative management options and an initial management plan*

National database referral to the Spinal Cord Injury Centre must occur within 24 hours of diagnosis.  
[www.spinalreferrals.nhs.uk](http://www.spinalreferrals.nhs.uk)

The UHCW Traumatic SCI pathway (aligns with the MCCTN Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury Best practise Guide 2020) should be initiated and completed by the MDT managing the patient.

Spinal Cord Injury Centre Outreach visit within 5 days and individualised care plan agreed.  
 MTC & SCI Centre agree patient suitable for transfer into SCI Centre?

Yes

Transfer to SCIC when bed available. Continue with individualised care until patient transferred.

No

Review by MTC Rehab Consultant and identification of alternative rehabilitation/ discharge options.

*SCI Centre to continue to provide advice and support as required.*

For ventilated patients weaning advice can be found at: [www.risci.org.uk](http://www.risci.org.uk)  
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 Patients linked to Oswestry who have respiratory complications will have their referral shared with Sheffield SCIC by Oswestry.