

Publication: Criteria for diverting Musculoskeletal trauma to Major Trauma Centres
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Criteria for diverting Musculoskeletal trauma to Major Trauma Centres

This type of trauma case below is considered specialist trauma and will benefit from direct admission to a Major Trauma Centre (MTC) even though they do not trigger the major trauma triage tool.

This applies to Birmingham Children's Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, Royal Stoke University Hospital and the University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire Major Trauma Centres.

Musculoskeletal trauma

Transfer the following major long bone injuries (in this context femur, tibia and humerus) or open fractures of the hindfoot or midfoot directly to a major trauma centre for orthopaedic care.

1. Fractures or dislocations with bone protruding out of skin.
2. Fractures with loss of skin greater than the size of a credit card.
3. Absence of pulses or compromise in capillary refill distal to a suspected fracture that does not rapidly recover once the limb is reduced into anatomical alignment.
4. Severe soft tissue damage to limbs with or without fractures.

Do not irrigate open fractures of the long bones, hindfoot or midfoot as it may force contamination deeper into the bone or tissue.

Gross contamination may be removed from the wound using gloved fingers. E.g. removing lumps of mud, or plant material. Document the nature of the contamination, as contaminants may be drawn inside following realignment.

Use a saline soaked-soaked dressing covered with an occlusive layer for open fractures.

Take a photo of the wound using the EPR tablet prior to dressing.

Transfer suspected open fractures of the hand, wrist or toes to nearest Trauma Unit (TU) unless there are pre-hospital triage indications for direct transport to a major trauma centre.