



# North East London & Essex Trauma Network

## Paediatric Orthopaedic Pathway for isolated non-limb/life threatening injuries

As the Major Trauma Centre, The Royal London Hospital provides paediatric orthopaedic support for complex, limb threatening fractures and polytrauma that is not manageable at Trauma Units. This includes children:

- Who are under 1 year old (can be extended to 3 years depending on anaesthetic availability)
- Have complex periarticular fractures that cannot be managed locally, as confirmed by the Consultant on call at the referring site
- Have sustained pelvic Trauma
- **Referrals in these scenarios should come from the orthopaedic team directly, and NOT ED**

Other pathways (which can all be found at [www.neletn.nhs.uk](http://www.neletn.nhs.uk)) exist for paediatric trauma which include:

- Open fractures
- Spinal Trauma
- Polytrauma

**It is anticipated that the large majority of isolated fractures are managed locally by the TU's orthopaedic team.**

**The Royal Collage of Anaesthetics advise that all anaesthetists who have received their CCT in recent years should be able to manage children for non-complex procedures down to the age of one. Anaesthetists who have held their CCT for longer will not necessarily be competent to manage children younger than three years old. **Please liaise with your anaesthetic team PRIOR to making a referral.****

**In limb or life-threatening situations, please follow the automatic acceptance protocol.**

Review inclusion criteria above and refer to MTC if appropriate. All referrals should come via Referapatient. All patients should have 'hands on' local orthopaedic review and local Consultant opinion must be sought PRIOR to referral.



## **Other Key Points**

Where there is disagreement, or a patient falls outside of the listed parameters, a consultant-to-consultant conversation may be necessary. The Orthopaedic consultant on call can be reached by switchboard on 020 7377 7000.

The Royal London Hospital cannot be utilised to cover annual leave at other hospitals – please refer 'In-Trust' in such scenarios.

Please transfer images via IEP to The Royal London Hospital, applicable to all hospitals outside of North East London

It is the Trauma Unit responsibility to organise transport with an appropriate level of supervision, to be determined locally.

## **Advice regarding anaesthetics**

The Royal College of Anaesthetics advise that all anaesthetists who have received their CCT in recent years should be able to manage children for non-complex procedures down to the age of one. Anaesthetists who have held their CCT for longer will not necessarily be competent to manage children younger than three years old, for a variety of reasons including their individual training and caseloads.

Therefore, the expectation that hospital departments can manage children down to the age of one for this type of procedure is likely to remain aspirational until the majority of anaesthetists working in those departments have been through the current training programme- which includes the relevant paediatric competencies.

This situation really underlines the importance of flexibility within units and agreed guidelines. This needs to be a team approach rather than the onus being on individuals.