

Rib Fracture Study Organisational Questionnaire

A. Introduction

What is this study about?

To identify areas for improvement in the quality of care for patients presenting to hospital with one or more rib fracture.

Who should complete this questionnaire

This questionnaire has been designed to collect data on the organisational structures surrounding the care provided to patients with rib fractures.

It should be completed by or with input from, clinicians(s) that provide care to this group of patients. This is likely to include, but not limited to, emergency medicine, anaesthetists, care of elderly physicians, trauma specialists, pain specialists, general surgery, thoracic surgery and physiotherapy.

Questions or help

For more information <https://www.ncepod.org.uk/Ribfractures.html>

For any questions about this study or questionnaire, contact ribfracture@ncepod.org.uk or call 0207 2519060.

CPD accreditation

Completing NCEPOD questionnaires helps consultants contribute to patient care investigations, review their clinical management, and engage in personal reflection. This activity supports continuing professional development (CPD) and can be recorded as evidence for appraisals.

About NCEPOD

The National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (NCEPOD) reviews healthcare practice by undertaking confidential studies, and makes recommendations to improve the quality of the delivery of care, for healthcare professionals and policymakers to implement. Data to inform the studies are collected from NHS hospitals and Independent sector hospitals across England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Jersey. NCEPOD are supported by a wide range of bodies and the Steering Group consists of members from the Medical Royal Colleges and Specialist Associations, as well as observers from The Coroners Society of England and Wales, and the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP).

Impact of NCEPOD

Recommendations from NCEPOD reports have had an impact on many areas of healthcare including:
Development of the NICE 'Acutely ill patients in hospital guideline' (CG50) - following publication of the 2005 'An Acute Problem' report.

Appointment of a National Clinical Director for Trauma Care- following publication of 'Trauma: Who Cares?' 2007.

Development of NICE Clinical Guidelines for Acute Kidney Injury, published in 2013 - 'Adding Insult to Injury' 2009.

Development of ICS Standards for the care of adult patients with a temporary Tracheostomy, published 2014 - 'On the right trach?' 2014.

Development of guidelines from the British Society of Gastroenterology: diagnosis and Management of acute lower gastrointestinal bleeding, published 2019 - 'Time to Get Control' 2015.

Development of the British Thoracic Society's Quality Standards for NIV, published 2018 - 'Inspiring Change' 2017.

This study was commissioned by The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) as part of the Clinical Outcome Review Programme

1a. What type of hospital is this?

- Major trauma centre Trauma unit
 Other hospital with emergency department

If not listed above, please specify here...

1b. Which trauma network is this hospital part of?

https://www.majortraumagroups.nhs.uk/_files/ugd/830212_67cf1f05b4894807bec66a7f20f4ca3d.pdf

2a. Was data from this hospital submitted to the Management and Outcomes of Rib Fractures (MORF) in the UK study?

- Yes No Unknown

**2b. If answered "Yes" to [2a] then:
What type of data?**

- Patient level data Hospital level data
 Patient and hospital level data

If not listed above, please specify here...

Rib fracture pathway/guideline

3a. Does this hospital have a rib fracture assessment and management pathway/guidance?

- Yes No Unknown

**3b. If answered "Yes" to [3a] then:
Is this pathway/guidance:**

- Part of a general trauma pathway/guidance A specific rib fracture pathway/guidance
 Both

If not listed above, please specify here...

3c. If answered "Yes" to [3a] then:

Does the pathway/guidance outline who looks after patients with rib fractures?

- Yes No Unknown

**3d. If answered "Yes" to [3a] and "Yes" to [3c] then:
How is it determined who looks after the patient?**

Please mark all that apply

- Risk stratification (e.g. STUMBL score) Clinical frailty score
 Age Number of fractures
 Pain requirements Flail chest

Please specify any additional options here...

3e. If answered "Yes" to [3a] then:

Within the rib fracture pathway/guidance which specialty has designated responsibility for the management of the patient?

Please mark all that apply

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Surgery | <input type="checkbox"/> Orthopaedics | <input type="checkbox"/> Thoracic surgery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Geriatrics | <input type="checkbox"/> Respiratory medicine |

Please specify any additional options here...

3f. If answered "Yes" to [3a] then:

Does the rib fracture pathway/guidance include:

Please mark all that apply. If none of the options apply please indicate this using the 'other' option.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> When to refer to the acute pain service | <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended analgesic options |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation for pain management review | |

Please specify any additional options here...

3g. If answered "Yes" to [3a] then:

Does the rib fracture pathway/guidance specify how quickly nerve blocks should be done?

- Yes No Unknown



Falls prevention

4. Is there a pathway/guidance for falls/fracture prevention?

- Yes No Unknown

1a. Where can nerve blocks be done?*Please mark all that apply*

- ED/ED Resus Theatre complex Critical care Wards

Please specify any additional options here...

1b. If answered "Wards" to [1a] then:**Which wards?**

2a. Is there a dedicated anaesthetist for delivery of invasive blocks?*person free to perform blocks (floating block service)*

- Yes No Unknown

2b. If answered "Yes" to [2a] then:**Availability (invasive blocks)**

- 24/7
 Normal working hours - 7 days/ week (e.g. 8am - 6pm)
 Normal working hours - Monday - Friday (e.g. 8am - 6pm)
 Extended hours - 7 days/ week
 Extended hours - Monday - Friday

If not listed above, please specify here...

2c. Which wards can patients with a nerve block catheter be admitted to?

- Any ward Specific wards

2d. If answered "Specific wards" to [2c] then:**Please specify (NB wards)**

- General medicine General surgery Thoracic surgery
 Cardiothoracic surgery Orthopaedics Critical care

Please specify any additional options here...

2e. Are there staff available to set up PCA/NCA for rib fractures out of hours?

- Yes No Unknown

2f. If someone has a PCA/NCA which ward can they go to?

- Any ward Specific wards

2g. If answered "Specific wards" to [2f] then:**Please specify (PCA)**

- General medicine General surgery Thoracic surgery
 Cardiothoracic surgery Orthopaedics Critical care

Please specify any additional options here...

3. Are lidocaine patches approved for use in your hospital for rib fracture analgesia?

- Yes No Unknown

4a. Does this hospital have patient information leaflets on analgesia options for rib fractures?

- Yes No Unknown

**4b. If answered "Yes" to [4a] then:
What languages are they available in?**

- English Welsh Irish

Please specify any additional options here...

**4c. If answered "Yes" to [4a] then:
Are other formats available?**

- Yes No Unknown

**4d. If answered "Yes" to [4c] then:
What formats are they available in?**

- Large font Easy read Braille

Please specify any additional options here...

1a. Does this hospital offer rib fracture stabilisation on-site?

- Yes No Unknown

**1b. If answered "Yes" to [1a] then:
What specialities can offer this service?**

- Thoracic surgery Cardiothoracic surgery General surgery
 Orthopaedic surgery

Please specify any additional options here...

**1c. If answered "Yes" to [1a] then:
Rib fracture stabilisation service availability**

- 24/7
 Normal working hours - 7 days/ week (e.g. 8am - 6pm)
 Normal working hours - Monday - Friday (e.g. 8am - 6pm)
 Extended hours - 7 days/ week
 Extended hours - Monday - Friday

If not listed above, please specify here...

**1d. If answered "Yes" to [1a] then:
How many patients underwent rib fracture stabilisation in 2025?**

- Unknown

**1e. If answered "No" to [1a] then:
Is there an agreement with another hospital/Trust/Health board on who should be referred for rib fracture stabilisation and when?**

- Yes No Unknown

2a. Does this hospital have a frailty team or equivalent?

- Yes No Unknown

**2b. If answered "Yes" to [2a] then:
When is the frailty team available?**

- 24/7
 Normal working hours - 7 days/ week (e.g. 8am - 6pm)
 Normal working hours - Monday - Friday (e.g. 8am - 6pm)
 Extended hours - 7 days/ week
 Extended hours - Monday - Friday

If not listed above, please specify here...

**2c. If answered "Yes" to [2a] then:
Do they routinely review frail patients or on request?**

- Routinely On request

If not listed above, please specify here...

3a. Does this hospital have an acute pain team?

- Yes No Unknown

**3b. If answered "Yes" to [3a] then:
When is the acute pain team available?**

- 24/7
- Normal working hours - 7 days/ week (e.g. 8am - 6pm)
- Normal working hours - Monday - Friday (e.g. 8am - 6pm)
- Extended hours - 7 days/ week
- Extended hours - Monday - Friday

If not listed above, please specify here...

**3c. If answered "Yes" to [3a] then:
Do they routinely review patients with rib fractures or on request?**

- Routinely
- On request

If not listed above, please specify here...

4a. When is chest physiotherapy available to rib fracture patients?

- 24/7
- Normal working hours - 7 days/ week (e.g. 8am - 6pm)
- Normal working hours - Monday - Friday (e.g. 8am - 6pm)
- Extended hours - 7 days/ week
- Extended hours - Monday - Friday

If not listed above, please specify here...

4b. Do they routinely review patients with rib fractures or on request?

- Routinely
- On request

If not listed above, please specify here...

4c. Is information on deep breathing exercises/chest exercises provided to patients with rib fractures?

- Yes
- No
- Unknown

5a. Is the management of patients with rib fractures audited at this hospital?

- Yes
- No
- Unknown

**5b. If answered "Yes" to [5a] then:
When was it last audited?**

- within the last 12 months
- within 12 to 24 months
- more than 24 months ago

If not listed above, please specify here...

**5c. If answered "Yes" to [5a] then:
Did the audit result in any improvement actions?**

- Yes
- No
- Unknown

**5d. If answered "Yes" to [5c] then:
Please provide details of these actions**

If you wish to make us aware of anything relating to the answers supplied or other aspects of rib fracture assessment and management please use the space below

6. Further information

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

By doing so you have contributed to the dataset that will form the report and recommendations due for release in Spring 2027