

PRESS RELEASE

12th November 2019

Hospitals continue to improve following the introduction of a best practice tariff for hip fractures

Dr Emer Ahern, Clinical Geriatric Lead for the Irish Hip Fracture Database (IHFD) today launched the IHFD National Report 2018 at the Irish Hip Fracture Meeting in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. The report focuses on delivering the right care, in the right place, at the right time and by the right team. The goals of the IHFD are very much aligned with Sláintecare to make sure we deliver what matters most to older people who break their hip.

Last year in Ireland, the IHFD collected data from all 16 acute hospitals on 99% (3,751) patients aged 60 years or over who were hospitalised following a hip fracture. The consequences of this common, serious injury for the individual, society and our health system are significant. For individuals, a hip fracture affects mobility and function, where they live, and even their survival.

Speaking at the event, Dr Ahern said “we have seen real improvements in the care of older people who break their hip since the IHFD started collecting data in 2013. The combination of evidence based clinical care standards, national audit and feedback to local hospitals and teams has been a powerful driver. The Best Practice Tariff (BPT)¹ was introduced in 2018. Hospitals and teams who meet all 8 Irish Hip Fracture Standards (IHFS) receive a BPT payment. In 2018, €278,000 was paid to Irish hospitals. This policy has really helped hospitals and teams to focus on meeting the IHFS and drive continuous quality improvement for the patients we serve.”

KEY FINDINGS

- 17% of patients were admitted to an orthopaedic ward within 4 hours, an increase of 6% since 2017.
- 72% of patients received surgery within 48 hours of their admission to the Emergency Department.
- 3% of hip fracture patients developed a pressure ulcer after admission to hospital.
- More than two-thirds (69%) of patients were reviewed by a Geriatrician in hospital.
- 84% of patients received a bone health assessment to prevent further fractures.
- Prior to discharge, 70% of patients had a specialist falls assessment in 2018 compared with only 47% in 2017.
- Median length of stay has decreased to 12 days.
- 1 in 5 (20%) patients were discharged directly home from hospital.
- 99% data coverage for 2018, an increase of 4% since 2017.

Dr Siobhán Kennelly, National Clinical Advisory Group Lead, Older Persons with the HSE added “The publication of this year’s Irish Hip Fracture Database National Report 2018... clearly demonstrates the great efforts being made at many sites through local governance groups in addressing identified gaps in care. The significant improvement in access to orthogeriatric services highlights the collaboration being undertaken to manage the needs of this older, vulnerable group.”

NOCA was established in 2012 to create sustainable clinical audit programmes at national level. NOCA enables those who manage and deliver healthcare to improve the quality of care through national clinical audit. NOCA is funded by the Health Service Executive Quality Improvement Division, governed by an independent voluntary board and operationally supported by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Copies of the report will be available to download from www.noca.ie.

ENDS

NOTES TO THE EDITOR:

- ¹ The introduction of the Best Practice Tariff (BPT) involved collaboration between the Healthcare Pricing Office (HPO), National Clinical Advisor and Group, the Health Service Executive (HSE), the Clinical Programme for Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery, and the National Office of Clinical Audit (NOCA). The BPT is a payment for hospitals operating on hip fracture patients (aged 60 years and over) which achieve eight standards for individual patients. Each hospital will receive €1,000 per case that meets the BPT, and this money is to be used by the hospital to improve patient care within the trauma service. The BPT is structured so that 30% of the payment goes to the hospital management and 70% to the trauma service. The BPT is reported quarterly to the hospitals.

SPOKESPERSON

Ms Emer Ahern
Clinical Geriatric Lead
Irish Hip Fracture Database

Dr Emer Ahern will officially launch the IHFD National Report 2017 at 09:10am.

For comment or further information contact Aisling Connolly, NOCA Communications & Events

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