

PRESS RELEASE

Highlighting the increasing incidence of major trauma in older people

At the College of Anaesthetists in Ireland, Merrion Square, Dublin 2

31st May, 2017. Today, healthcare professionals from all over Ireland, including doctors, nurses, therapists, healthcare managers and policy makers will attend the Major Trauma Audit (MTA) Study Day, to learn about the increasing incidence of major trauma in older people and effective management of these patients.

Speaking ahead of the event, the MTA Clinical Lead, Dr Conor Deasy noted the evolving nature of trauma from high energy trauma involving young men to lower energy trauma associated with an aging population, and the consequent implications for trauma service planning and delivery. He welcomed keynote speakers from the UK; Prof Tim Coats, Chairman of the Trauma Audit and Research Network (TARN) and Dr Elaine Cole, Director of Research and Innovation for the pan London Major Trauma System.

The first MTA national report, published in November 2016, highlighted a high incidence of older patients sustaining major trauma – 40% of patients were 65 years of age or older, 75% of which sustained a fall of less than 2 metres.

The aim of the MTA is to monitor care and drive quality improvement to achieve the best possible clinical outcomes for trauma patients in Ireland. The MTA National Report informs policymakers, hospital management and a wide range of healthcare professionals about how well trauma care is delivered in Irish hospitals. Using this data at a local level, each hospital can improve the quality of care they deliver and nationally this data enables strategic planning for the future development of care of trauma patients in Ireland.

Major Trauma Audit (MTA) was the first national clinical audit to be approved by the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC). The NCEC provides a mechanism of endorsement of clinical audit mandated by the Minister for Health.

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.

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