

NEWS RELEASE

29th November 2018

Only 1 in 5 hip fracture patients are discharged home directly following surgery

Dr Emer Ahern, Clinical Geriatric Lead for the Irish Hip Fracture Database today launched the Irish Hip Fracture Database National Report 2017 at the Irish Hip Fracture Meeting in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. The purpose of the report is to highlight the importance of the standardisation and optimisation of hip fracture care and continual measurement and monitoring of data to improve outcomes for patients.

Last year, in Ireland, 3,608 patients aged 60 years or over were hospitalised following a hip fracture. The IHFD collected data on 95% (3,497) of cases from all sixteen acute hospitals. There are significant morbidity and mortality associated with this common injury and health care costs are high.

Speaking at the event, Dr Ahern said “Every day in Ireland, 10 people break their hips. Only 1 in 5 go home directly from hospital. There has been huge progress in hip fracture care in Ireland in the past 10 years and we will continue to use the data we collect to continually improve the care and outcomes for our patients”

KEY FINDINGS

- 92% of patients were brought directly to the operating hospital, an increase of 5% from 2016
- 11% of patients were admitted to an orthopaedic ward within 4 hours
- 69% of patients received surgery within 48 hours of their admission to the Emergency Department
- 14 hospitals reduced the pressure ulcer incidence
- 77% of patients were mobilised on the day of or day after surgery
- 1 in 2 (50%) patients were reviewed by a Geriatrician in hospital
- 73% patients received a bone health assessment to prevent further fractures
- Median length of stay has increased to 13 days
- Just over 1 in 5 (22%) of patients were discharged directly home from hospital
- 95% data coverage for 2017, an increase of 9% since 2016
- This report includes individual hospital comparison across six key care standards and highlights variation in hospital performance across all six standards.

Dr Philip Crowley, National Director for the HSE Quality Improvement Division added “I welcome the publication of the 2017 report of the Irish Hip Fracture Database. Hip fractures are significant injuries and patients fare much better when they get the right treatment in a timely fashion. This is a great example of driving improvement in care in a totally transparent way.”

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:

- Dr Emer Ahern will officially launch the IHFD National Report 2017 at 09:20am.
- Comment from Clinical Lead available at 9:45am in RCSI Front Hall.

SPOKESPEOPLE

Ms Emer Ahern

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