

PRESS RELEASE 10th November 2020

Data in NOCA's Irish Hip Fracture Database report shows that low falls in the home are the leading cause of hip fractures in Ireland.

Dr Emer Ahern, Clinical Geriatric Lead for the Irish Hip Fracture Database (IHFD) today launches the Irish Hip Fracture Database (IHFD) Report 2019 at the IHFD annual meeting hosted online by the National Office of Clinical Audit. The 2019 report focuses on ***Staying Safe and Active at Home***. With 85% of hip fractures in Ireland caused by low falls in the home it is clear that home safety advice is needed to prevent these injuries. This is even more important in 2020 due to the impact from COVID-19 resulting in more people spending time in their homes.

In 2019 the IHFD collected data from all 16 acute hospitals on 99% (3,701) 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.

Launching this year's report, Dr Ahern said "The publication of the IHFD Report 2019 clearly demonstrates the great efforts being made at local hospital level to improve care of hip fracture patients. The significant improvement in access to orthogeriatric services, early mobilisation by a physiotherapists and specialist treatment for bone health and falls assessment highlights the investment made in the care of older patients who break their hip. The current COVID-19 pandemic has meant that even more people are now spending prolonged periods at home and being less active which is a real concern. The IHFD 2019 Report provides advice that everyone can use to stay safe and active at home and prevent harmful falls that can lead to hip fractures".

KEY FINDINGS

- Home continues to be the place patients are most likely to be admitted to hospital from with a hip fracture (85%, n=3146).
- The average age of hip fracture patients is 80 years and over two-thirds (69%) are female.
- In 2019, 76% of surgeries were conducted within 48 hours and within normal working hours. This has improved by 4% since 2018.
- Eighty-two percent of patients were reviewed by a Geriatrician in hospital, an increase of 13% on 2018.
- Prior to discharge, 83% of patients had a specialist falls assessment in 2019, compared with only 70% in 2018.
- There was also a greater percentage of patients being discharged on definitive bone health treatment in 2019 (71%) versus 2018 (62%).
- Less than 1 in 4 (24%) patients are discharged directly home from hospital following a hip fracture.

Bibiana Savin, Public Representative on the IHFD Audit added "It is good to see that the improvements in care have continued in 2019. This shows that the audit is making a positive impact for patients, and that hospitals are striving to meet the best standard of care. The process of raising awareness for falls and

fractures prevention must go beyond the hospital stay to encourage patients and the public to play an active role in practising staying safe at home. Attention to details in this report can help people avoid harmful falls that can lead to hip fractures”.

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

ENDS

NOTES TO THE EDITOR:

About NOCA

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.

SPOKESPERSON

Ms Emer Ahern
Clinical Geriatric Lead
Irish Hip Fracture Database

Dr Emer Ahern will officially launch the IHFD National Report 2019 at 10am on the 10 Nov 2020 at the IHFD 2020 Meeting webinar [here](#)

For further information contact
Aoife Moroney Ward,
NOCA Communications & Events Lead:
aoifemoroneyward@nocai.ie
087 3578410