

## **NOCA welcomes ‘A Trauma System for Ireland’, a report from the Trauma Steering Group**

**6<sup>th</sup> February 2018** The National Office of Clinical Audit (NOCA) welcomes today’s publication of ‘A Trauma System for Ireland’, a report from the Trauma Steering Group. The report highlights the need for reconfiguration of trauma services across Ireland to ensure that patients are seen by the right people, in the right time and at a hospital that has the necessary services to ensure the best possible outcomes.

Last week saw the publication of NOCA’s Major Trauma Audit Report 2016. The report highlighted the need for change in how trauma services are delivered. Dr Conor Deasy, National Clinical Lead noted that 28% of patients needed to be transferred to another hospital as the treatment they needed could not be provided in the first hospital.

Dr Deasy commended the work of the Trauma Steering Group and noted “An Inclusive Trauma System in Ireland should ensure that the Major Trauma Centre (MTC) at the hub of the trauma network shares responsibility and provides support to the Trauma Units, Injury Units and Local Emergency Hospitals for the patient so that transfer to the MTC occurs seamlessly when required. Key investigations and management are currently being delayed, with only one-third of patients with head injuries requiring a CT scan receiving one within one-hour, in line with international best practice standards. Major Trauma Audit by NOCA will measure the effects of the changes in trauma care delivery on processes of care (for example seniority of doctors involved in trauma care, time to CT, theatre or an intensive care bed, access to rehabilitation etc) and outcomes (for example survival and quality of life of survivors)”.

“The recommendations arising from the Trauma Steering Group need to be implemented to ensure that there is a cohesive trauma system in place in Ireland. Currently, none of the 26 trauma receiving hospitals in Ireland meet international criteria to be designated as a major trauma centre. Critically, none receive the threshold volume of severely injured patients to maintain clinician’s skills in the delivery of care to this complex group of patients. Internationally, where trauma networks have been introduced, in excess of a 30% increase in the odds of survival has been observed.”

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.

### **ENDS**

- Copies of ‘A Trauma System for Ireland’ are available from <http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Report-of-the-Trauma-Steering-Group-A-Trauma-System-for-Ireland.pdf>
- The Major Trauma Audit National Report 2016 are available from <https://www.noca.ie/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/NOCA-MAJOR-TRAUMA-REPORT-2016.pdf>
- Data from the Major Trauma Audit National Report 2014-2015 was used to inform the report from the Trauma Steering Group.

For further information or comment, contact Aisling Connolly, NOCA Communications & Events Lead at 01 402 5162 or [auditinfo@nocai.ie](mailto:auditinfo@nocai.ie)