

South East of Scotland Major Trauma Centre

MAJOR TRAUMA WARD STEP DOWNS FROM CRITICAL CARE



Situation

Clarification of the process when a major trauma (MT) patient is ready for stepdown from critical care.

Background

All patients who fulfil the major trauma ward admission criteria should be stepped down to the major trauma ward (MTW) to ensure they receive all that major trauma services have to offer, including wider and regular AHP support, MoE support, mental health support, gym and rehab facilities to name a few. This includes patients with severe single system injuries. Patients with polytrauma should generally not be admitted to single specialty wards unless agreed by both critical care and major trauma consultants with an agreement for ongoing multidisciplinary rehabilitation in place.

Assessment

There is sometimes difficulty in finding an accepting specialty to admit the patient under when moving to the major trauma ward. This document highlights the responsibilities and governance around this process.

Recommendation

- All patients suitable for the MTW need to be admitted under a specialty consultant and this should be documented prior to leaving critical care.
- The Critical Care consultant will identify the most appropriate team and communicate this to parent team and MT team. This can usually be prepared for during the patients stay in critical care.
- The accepting consultant and specialty should be documented on TRAK
- If any issues or delays or disagreement the MT consultant (Monday – Friday daytime) can be contacted and should liaise with parent specialties to confirm accepting consultant