

The Scottish Trauma Network: Developments and impact

2018/19 saw a huge amount of work progressed by the network, delivering significant developments and impact across Scotland.



Prevention and Public Health

The STN are collaborating with the Scottish Public Health Network (ScotPHN) scotphn.net to ensure that the prevention agenda already at work across Scotland will contribute to an evidence-based framework for the network.

In 2018, the Scottish Public Health Network developed a Public Health Brief for the STN. The report was presented to the STN Steering Group in December 2018. It noted some gaps in data available to the network, particularly around those who have suffered serious injury who do not make it to hospital. It's thought that the findings of the brief could be used to inform improvements in data provision to the network and its overall future work plan.



Pre-Hospital

The Pre-Hospital, Transfer and Retrieval Group has been established to identify best practice, and produce national guidance and standards for professionals in pre-hospital care.

The group has successfully agreed and implemented a pre-hospital care model, including three tiers of response:

- “green” (standard ambulance response)
- “yellow” (advanced care from advanced critical care practitioners and pre-hospital response through the British Association of Immediate Care (BASICS) Scotland responders)
- “red” (pre-hospital critical care practitioners responding, for example through ScotSTAR, Medic One and Tayside Trauma). This model of care includes minimum requirements expected of each tier of response

Work is ongoing with other partners including Mountain Rescue and the Coastguard to facilitate a ‘Once for Scotland’ approach for pre-hospital care.

Following a pilot in the West of Scotland, six pre-hospital Advanced Practitioners have been appointed to develop “yellow” pre-hospital response capabilities in the South East of Scotland region. The team has now been in post for five months, and following a robust induction programme are now providing advanced pre-hospital care across the South East of Scotland. For more information on the work of Advanced Practitioners, please refer to the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) section of the brochure on page six.

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Acute

The STN Clinical Forum was convened in December 2018 to bring clinicians together to collaborate and support the development of best practice in the acute phase of care for seriously injured people. The group has met twice and a work plan is being developed to inform future meeting topics.

In 2018, the network saw the opening of two Major Trauma Centres (MTCs), with the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport opening the MTC in Aberdeen on 1 October, and the First Minister opening the MTC in Dundee on 19 November 2019.

These openings mark the achievement of crucial milestones in the development of Scotland's new trauma system. They were the result of a significant amount of work from each of the regions, with appointments to key positions across the patient pathway to ensure that the MTCs are now able to deliver the services required.

Further information regarding the remaining two MTCs can be found on page five.



Rehabilitation

The Rehabilitation Group has been established to develop rehabilitation plans, with some advice from UK wide experts.

Minimum requirements for rehabilitation in Scotland were agreed by the STN Steering Group in July 2018. The Rehabilitation Group has since developed a plan for implementing a rehabilitation model for Scotland in line with guidelines from the British Society for Rehabilitation Medicine (BSRM). This model has been funded by Scottish Government, demonstrating the high level of support for the network. A recommendation has been made to the National Planning Board to review rehabilitation models across the whole of NHSScotland and consider what other areas require improvement in line with BSRM guidelines.

As part of this work, a rehabilitation plan has been developed by the North and East regions, where it is being piloted at the same time as discussions continue around how a national rehabilitation plan might look including potential digital solutions. Members of the Rehabilitation Group are leading a workshop on day one of the STN event (26 June) and this forms part of discussions.



Major Incident with Mass Casualty planning

The Major Incident with Mass Casualties Group (MI/MC) was convened in March 2018 to develop an updated national plan for managing major incidents with mass casualties. Members of the group consisted of specialists from all over the country and the group was chaired by Angiolina Foster, Chief Executive, NHS 24.

The plan is now complete and has been shared with health boards for roll out across the country. The work undertaken by the group sees the first time that the long term care of patients has been taken into consideration for MI/MC planning. In addition, Health and Social Care and rehabilitation representatives are engaged in the planning process, and are considering how patients currently in hospitals can be moved into different care settings at the time of any incident, and also longer term care strategies for survivors of the incident.



Paediatrics

In relation to trauma care, the minimum requirements for paediatrics were agreed by the STN Steering Group in July 2018.

Regions have started to introduce paediatric trauma coordinators. Positive feedback was received for the coordinator appointed in the West of Scotland, demonstrating the potential benefit that these roles could have across the network.

This is a tool to triage children under 16 years of age with suspected major trauma to ensure they are taken to the most appropriate place for treatment.

Further work has been undertaken to see the impact the tool is likely to have in operational areas, particularly in more densely populated areas in the West of Scotland. The tool is being made available for use in Scottish ambulances. Discussions about early implementation of the tool in the South East and West of Scotland are also underway, although would require some lead time to allow for staff training.

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Updates from across the regions

The four regions and SAS are instrumental in delivering key developments across the trauma spectrum. We take a look at just a few examples of work they have been undertaking. For a full update on regional activity, please take a look at our Annual Report (2018/19) available on our website (scottishtraumanetwork.com).



North of Scotland (NoS) Trauma Network

Due to the geography of the NoS and the distances between hospitals, all Local Emergency Hospitals (LEHs), the Trauma Unit (TU) at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness and the MTC in Aberdeen have instigated trauma call systems to receive patients in Emergency Departments who have suffered major trauma. Additionally a single point of contact (SPOC) has been established at the MTC to offer advice and arrange transfers into the MTC.

The MTC have appointed the pivotal roles of the Trauma Case Managers and, together with the TU at Raigmore Hospital they have also appointed Rehabilitation Coordinators. Both of these roles help to coordinate care at the acute and rehabilitation stages for patients. In addition, following initial testing, documented rehabilitation plans are now being written with patients and families for all those who have suffered major trauma in both the NoS and East of Scotland (EoS) networks. This plan follows a patient from their initial review by a rehabilitation specialist through to their return home and local rehabilitation. Planning is underway to include this document in the NoS Care Portal so that it's accessible electronically across the North of Scotland.

Alongside this support to patients within the hospitals, IT equipment has been provided to community rehabilitation teams across the network to support telehealth provision of rehabilitation care, facilitating rehabilitation hub and spoke model of care planned for the network.



East of Scotland (EoS) Trauma Network

The EoS MTC opened its doors to patients in November 2019. A lot has been achieved through the funding committed by Scottish Government for this initial phase of implementation and further investment is required to deliver on the agreed national standards.

Some of the main achievements include the appointment of three Trauma Advanced Nurse Practitioners, a newly refurbished major trauma ward and the development of new ways of working by creating Trauma Teams and developing initial patient reception procedures.

The next phase for enhancing Major Trauma services will commence when funding is available and additional appointments can be made to achieve the agreed rehabilitation minimum requirements. It's planned that a number of temporary appointments will be made to key posts soon.

Future investment should provide additional resources to deliver sufficient levels of rehabilitation for MT patients in the MTC and community.



South East of Scotland (SEoS) Trauma Network

Much has been achieved in the SEoS in the two years since the commitment to proceed with a national trauma system and the network is continually evolving in the lead up to launching its MTC in early 2021.

The SEoS model for major trauma will see a MTC for Adults at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh (RIE) by April 2021, with a major trauma ward planned within the orthopaedic footprint at the RIE. The pathway for major trauma patients will include care provided by a specialist major trauma service which includes earlier, hyper acute rehabilitation services. Rehabilitation will be made available at an early stage to ensure the best possible outcomes for patients.

A key priority for the SEoS between now and the 'go live' date is to implement the Knowledge and Skills framework and the development of any potential job descriptions that are consistent across the South East region.

A number of education opportunities have been provided for staff in the network. One example is workshop sessions to support improved skills and competencies in the management of major trauma survivors. These include opportunities for clinicians to network across the region and share examples of best practice.



West of Scotland (WoS) Trauma Network

The WoS are committed to delivering the national trauma network model, and comprehensive care pathways that span geographical boundaries.

At the heart of the WoS regional network is the MTC which will be sited at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital (QEUH) in Glasgow and will provide care for around 1,100 critically and severely injured patients per annum. The MTC will be supported with six stand alone TUs, LEHs and a range of remote and rural community hospitals. There will also be a MTC for Paediatrics located at the Royal Hospital for Children. Significant redesign of services is required across the WoS to deliver this network model.

Supporting all of this will be a specialist rehabilitation service. The focus of this model is on a hub and spoke provision of specialist rehabilitation ensuring complex rehabilitation needs are met for major trauma patients from day one. It concentrates specialist services to improve outcomes for patients and to support patients to move along the rehabilitation pathway seamlessly.

In preparation for the MTC, a number of new key roles have been appointed to in the first two years including Critical Care and Ward Nurse Practitioners who are all in the process of completing a two year training course. The Major Trauma Coordinators in the MTC for both adult and paediatrics have been appointed to. These are pivotal posts within the MTC providing a co-ordination role for the patient across the pathway and system to ensure the right care is being provided at the right time.

In 2018/19 the WoS have focussed attention on learning and education, staff training for key roles and sharing good practice from areas of excellence to help inform the development of the operational policies for the network. A number of staff have benefited from this.



Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS)

During 2018/19 SAS continued to coordinate the pre-hospital response to trauma patients through the Trauma Desk. This is the foundation of the STN, operating 24/7 from the West Ambulance Control Centre, ensuring dispatch of appropriate resources and clinical support for triage and treatment decisions of pre-hospital providers. Quarterly Trauma Desk Clinical Governance meetings are in place, which are followed by a meeting of the national Trauma Team leads in order to share learnings.

In November 2018, the first team of six Advanced Practitioners in Critical Care started in Edinburgh. This team is working closely with the Medic One Pre-Hospital Care Team and have advanced skills and interventions that bridge the gap between a paramedic and medic skill set to provide improved outcomes to trauma patients. A further team of Advanced Practitioners will be recruited to in the NoS over 2019/20.

Up until August 2018, the ScotSTAR West team was available to respond to patients from 7:30am to 6pm. These hours were extended to 7am to 11pm from 1 August 2018 as part of implementation of the STN. This is improving outcomes for people who suffer serious injury and need rapid access to a pre-hospital trauma team.

Planning was underway in 2018/19 to implement the ScotSTAR North hub. This hub has been fully operational since April 2019 covering a population of approximately 630,000 in the NoS. This North based retrieval team will support trauma patients to access the right care first time and therefore provide better quality of care for patients by improving the time to definitive care.