



10 November 2021

Deputy Patricia Ryan, TD
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 55095/21- To ask the Minister for Health if pursuant to the Government report The Trauma System for Ireland the progress that is being made in developing a comprehensive fracture liaison service; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Ryan

I refer to the above Parliamentary Questions which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

The National Trauma Strategy published in February 2018, takes a whole system approach addressing all elements of the trauma care pathway including prevention, pre-hospital care, acute hospital care, rehabilitation and supported discharge.

The strategy recommends the establishment of an inclusive trauma system, where a network of facilities and services co-ordinate the care of injured patients along standardised pathways. This includes the care and treatment of fracture patients. International studies have consistently shown that concentrating the care of severely injured patients in dedicated Major Trauma Centres is associated with improved access to care, reduced length of stay and demonstrably better outcomes for patients.

A multi-annual plan to implement the recommendations of the Trauma Strategy has been developed. The plan includes the establishment of two regional trauma networks (Central and South) each with a Major Trauma Centre, a number of Trauma Units and further bypass protocols for the care of patients with traumatic injury, including those with fractures.

The National Model of Care for Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery 2015 recommended the implementation of a nationwide fracture liaison service delivered by a nurse specialist, physiotherapist or occupational therapist with the required competency in bone health and fracture management. This model is a proven approach to the identification, assessment and treatment of fracture risk.

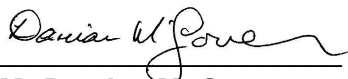
Currently, in Ireland there are six acute hospital sites recognised by the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) as offering a fracture liaison service. The National Clinical Programme for Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery submitted a business case as part of the 2022 HSE estimates and service planning process for additional resources to support the expansion of Fracture Liaison Services nationally.

The National Clinical Programme for Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery has also established a fracture liaison service database which aims to facilitate timely patient identification and clinical audit. The first National Preliminary Fracture Liaison Service Database Report with recommendations is due to be published in late 2022.

In addition, a number of developments have been funded in 2021 that will improve services to patients with trauma including those with fractures. These developments include the establishment of major trauma services at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and resources to develop a planned trauma service in Cork University Hospital.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you, however, should you require any further details please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Damian McGovern', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Damian McGovern
Programme Manager
Trauma System Implementation Programme