



Oifig Náisiúnta um Sheirbhísí Tráma  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Ionad Gnó Gheata na Páirce, D08 YFF1

National Office for Trauma Services  
Health Service Executive  
Parkgate Business Centre, D08 FFY1

[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)  
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)  
t. 01 6352439  
e. [trauma.office@hse.ie](mailto:trauma.office@hse.ie)

**28th November 2023**

Mr Paul Donnelly TD  
Sinn Féin  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2  
e. [paul.donnelly@oireachtas.ie](mailto:paul.donnelly@oireachtas.ie)

**Re. PQ Ref. 49304/23 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline the specific measures taken to enhance ambulance services in advance of the opening of new major trauma centres; the specific funding allocated to each measure and its date of operation; and when each of the network trauma hospitals will become operational.**

Dear Deputy Donnelly

I refer to your Parliamentary Question above which has been referred to HSE National Office for Trauma Services for response.

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

With regard to specific measures taken to enhance Ambulance Services, clear protocols and procedures have been developed with the National Ambulance Service, which will ensure trauma patients are brought to the appropriate facility in line with their care needs.

I would like to confirm the following developments:

Development of a **pre-hospital Trauma Triage Tool**. A key step for National Ambulance Service (NAS) in the operation of the trauma network is to determine the most appropriate destination for seriously injured patients. To support practitioners, a Trauma Triage Tool Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) has been developed by key stakeholders and published by the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC). This CPG will support the triage of injured patients and aid the practitioner to determine the most appropriate destination for that patient. The Trauma Triage Tool has four key functions:

- Recognition of patients with significant injuries prehospital
- Aid determination of most appropriate destination (MTC or TU)
- Activation of the trauma team in MTCs and TUs
- Aid prioritisation of secondary retrieval from TUs to MTCs where necessary.

Current hospital destination guidance will be made available to Pre-Hospital Practitioners on the PHECC electronic Field Guide App.

**Trauma Triage Tool E-Learning Package.** A short 30 minute HSE E-Learning package has also been developed by the HSE E-Learning Development Team in conjunction with stakeholders from the National Trauma Office, the National Ambulance Service, Dublin Fire Brigade, and PHECC to support the introduction of the new Trauma Triage Tool CPGs and is currently available on the HSE digital training platform HSEland.

Recording Trauma Triage Positive Patients on **Pre-Hospital Patient Care Report (PCR).** The Trauma Triage Tool will inform the designation of patients as 'major trauma positive' and will be recorded on the Patient Care Report (PCR). The PCR data set is amended to incorporate a major trauma decision panel and will be included in the electronic Patient Care Report (ePCR) and hardcopy PCR versions.

**National Trauma Desk.** The National Trauma System is supported by a designated Trauma Desk in the NAS National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC). The Trauma Desk will support practitioner decision-making when trauma by-pass is activated. The Trauma Desk has a key role in ongoing communications between practitioners and the MTC or TU in relation to inter-hospital referrals known as the 1800 TRAUMA system.

The measures above are currently being implemented within the NAS existing funding allocation.

In April 2021 the Minister for Health confirmed that the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital will be the Major Trauma Centre for the Central Trauma Network. It will take a number of years before the Mater Hospital will fully operate as a Major Trauma Centre as additional capacity is required for the hospital to manage the increased patient volume expected from across the Central Trauma Network. The hospital commenced providing major trauma services in September 2022. The service has extended to accept secondary patient transfers of some major trauma patients from within the Central Trauma Network since July 2023.

CUH commenced major trauma services for patients injured within a 45-minute travel time of the hospital in June 2023. This will be expanded to patients across the South Trauma Network over the coming years as the capacity is increased to accept a higher patient volume.

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



Damian McGovern  
Programme Manager  
National Office for Trauma Services