

1. Introduction

Injury is the most frequent cause of death in children above the age of one in the United Kingdom.

Major Trauma Networks have been established in England with the aim of getting the patient to the “right place at the right time for the right care.”

Major Trauma triage protocols are in place so that most children will be transferred directly into Major Trauma Centres. The Major Trauma Centres (MTCs) have the facilities to provide resuscitation, emergency surgery and interventional radiology with consultant-led trauma teams, massive transfusion protocols, and immediate access to operating theatres and intensive care. Patients with longer transfer times are taken to the nearest Trauma Unit. In Yorkshire and Humber this combined with children being taken by parents to the nearest Emergency Department means that up to 50% of paediatric major trauma will present to the nearest Trauma Unit or Emergency Department attached to a hospital with minimal trauma services.

This guideline is intended to be used as a working document to provide guidance for Trauma Units and Major Trauma Centres in Yorkshire and Humber receiving children with major trauma. The aim of the guideline is to:

- ✓ Improve equity of access to Major Trauma Centres and critical care services
- ✓ Ensure consistent application of standards across the region
- ✓ Improve experience and quality of care and outcomes for children and their families
- ✓ Enhance collaborative networking between professionals

The guidance covers the paediatric major trauma patient from first point of contact at any Emergency Department until transfer to the specialist service is completed.

It includes information on:

- ✓ Current patient pathways
- ✓ Who to contact and how
- ✓ Tips from experts
- ✓ Web links to more detailed network guidelines where they exist