

# NHS GGC ACUTE SPINAL TRAUMA PROTOCOL

For patients presenting to an Emergency Department within NHS GG&C with Acute Spinal Trauma:

## ***Refer to local Orthopaedic team from the Emergency Department***

Appropriate cases should be referred and admitted to the local Orthopaedic team with further discussion and advice as below:

### **Cervical Spine Injury – with neurological deficit**

Admission will most likely be to HDU under the care of Orthopaedics but Orthopaedics will also discuss immediately with the National Spinal Injuries team on-call for advice, with transfer\* to National Spinal Injuries Unit as appropriate

\*Where transfer is not appropriate then written advice will be made available through clinical portal.

### **Cervical Spine Injury – no neurological deficit**

Orthopaedic team to discuss with neurosurgical team on-call who will provide definitive, patient specific management advice\*\* with transfer for Neurosurgical intervention as required

\*\*Advice will be written and made available on clinical portal within 24 hours or (by Monday for those patients admitted at the weekend if there is no spinal neurosurgeon on call).

- Where follow up is to be provided through the local Orthopaedic team the neurosurgical advice will be available on the front page of clinical portal (patient notes) and will provide guidance on:
  - Immediate management advice
  - Imaging advice and the timing of this
  - Guidance on when to refer back to neurosurgery for further input
  - Follow Up advice

### **Thoracolumbar Spine Injury – with neurological deficit**

Admission will most likely be to HDU under the care of Orthopaedics but Orthopaedics will also discuss immediately with the National Spinal Injuries team on-call for advice, with transfer\* to National Spinal Injuries Unit as appropriate

\*Where transfer is not appropriate then written advice will be made available through clinical portal.

### **Thoracolumbar Spine Injury – no neurological deficit**

Discuss with Ortho-spinal team (consultant to consultant, usually electronically) who will provide definitive, patient specific management advice\*\*.

\*\*Advice will be written and made available on clinical portal within 24 hours or by Monday for those patients admitted at the weekend if there is no ortho-spinal surgeon on call.

- Where follow up is to be provided through the local Orthopaedic team the Ortho-spinal advice will be available on the front page of clinical portal (patient notes) and will provide guidance on:
  - Immediate management advice
  - Imaging advice and the timing of this
  - Guidance on when to refer back to Ortho-spinal for further input
  - Follow Up advice