

Fracture Liaison Service Pathway (FLS)

National Clinical Programme for Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery

Fracture Liaison Service Pathway Overview

Pathway Background

Specialty Title/ Category	Orthopaedics
Pathway Title	Fracture Liaison Service
Patient Disease Cohort	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patients over 50 years 2. Patients with a history of Osteoporosis 3. Patients with a fragility fracture
Pathway Proposer	Model of Care for National Clinical Programme for Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery (2015 :44 – 46); Recommendation 15 ,A Trauma System for Ireland - Report of the Trauma Steering Group (2018)
Pathway Owner	National Clinical Programme for Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery (NCPTOS)
Approval Process Level to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National FLS Steering Group • National Clinical Programme for Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery

Working Group Membership

Name	Title	Membership Role
Ms Ita Hegarty	Pathway Lead - SCTP	Chair - Pathway Lead
Mr Finbarr Condon (previously Mr David Moore)	National Joint Clinical Lead NCPTOS	National Joint Clinical Lead NCPTOS
Mr Paddy Kenny	National Joint Clinical Lead NCPTOS	Clinical Joint Lead Trauma & Orthopaedics
Ruth Kiely (Previously Catherine Farrell)	Programme Manager, NCPTOS	Programme Manager
Dr Frances Dockery	Consultant Physician & Geriatrician; Co-Chair FLS Steering Group	Co-Chair FLS Steering Committee
Mr Aaron Glynn	Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon Co-Chair FLS Steering Group	Co-Chair FLS Steering Committee
Mr Kenny Franks	Project Manager – Fracture Liaison Service	Project Manager
Dr Mike O'Connor Dr PJ Harnett Ms Marian Mullaney	NCAGL Acute Hospitals and previously National Clinical Lead -Older Persons Programme Programme Manager Service Improvement Manager	National Integrated Care Programme Older Persons (NICPOP)
Mr Keith Synnott Mr Damian McGovern	National Clinical Lead - NOTS Programme Manager – NOTS	National Office for Trauma Services

MDT and Stakeholder Involvement in Pathway Design



COMMENCEMENT OF PATHWAY

- The NCPTOS in their Model of Care (2015: 44 – 46) advocates strongly for the national implementation of FLS which is a co-ordinator based, secondary fracture prevention service implemented by healthcare systems for the treatment of osteoporotic patients.
- The Trauma Steering Group in their Report - A Trauma System for Ireland (2018: 11, 64) recommends “*The HSE should develop a comprehensive Fracture Liaison Service to provide high quality, evidence based care to those who suffer a fragility fracture with a focus on achieving the best outcomes for recovery, rehabilitation and secondary prevention of further fracture*”.
- The implementation of an FLS has been highlighted in the “*Strategy to Prevent Falls and Fractures in Ireland’s Ageing Population*” 2008
- The National Fracture Liaison Service Programme (NFLSP) Steering Group was established in 2018 to implement this recommendation.
- Between June – September 2021 a business case was developed for an integrated approach to FLS in Ireland by NCPTOS, NICPOP and the National Office for Trauma Services.



NSP 2022

- A submission to support FLS rollout was put forward as part of NSP 2022. This submission will commence the building of sustainable capacity to deliver a national integrated FLS in Ireland. This will result over time with a reduction in the number of patients presenting with hip fractures.



CURRENT POSITION

- The FLS Pathway has been signed off by the Co chairs of the FLS Steering Committee, the Joint National Clinical Leads for NCP for Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery; the National Integrated Care Programme Older Persons (NICPOP) and the National Office for Trauma Services.
- The first Irish National FLS-Database Report was published in October 2022 with the second report due in September 2023.

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Fracture Liaison Service Pathway

Current State

- In Ireland the predicted increase by 2030 in fragility fractures is 58%, the highest of all EU countries (SCOPE 2021)
- There is a disparity in FLS delivery at present nationally. Patients are not being followed up or this occurs in an “ad hoc” manner due to the lack of resourcing nationwide for this service. This in turn is impacting negatively on patient outcomes and quality of life as well as having an economic burden on the health service and society.
- The recently published facilities audit demonstrated that of the 16 adult trauma sites 10 had some FLS but none were capturing all fracture patients.
- Fracture liaison services (FLS) within public hospitals in Ireland are largely heterogeneous, limited in many cases and poorly supported. A national strategy is urgently needed to support the implementation and operation of an FLS, and thus help reduce the burden of fragility fractures for patients and the healthcare system (Dockery et.al., 2021)
- First report of the National FLS Database was published in October 2022 and reported on data from 8 of the 16 adult sites managing trauma. 26% of the expected number of fragility fractures were identified.

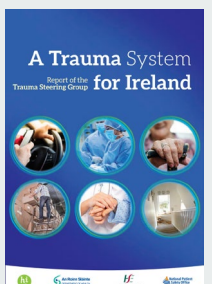
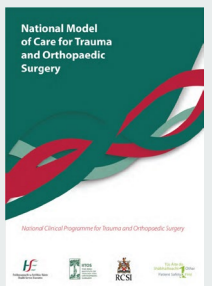
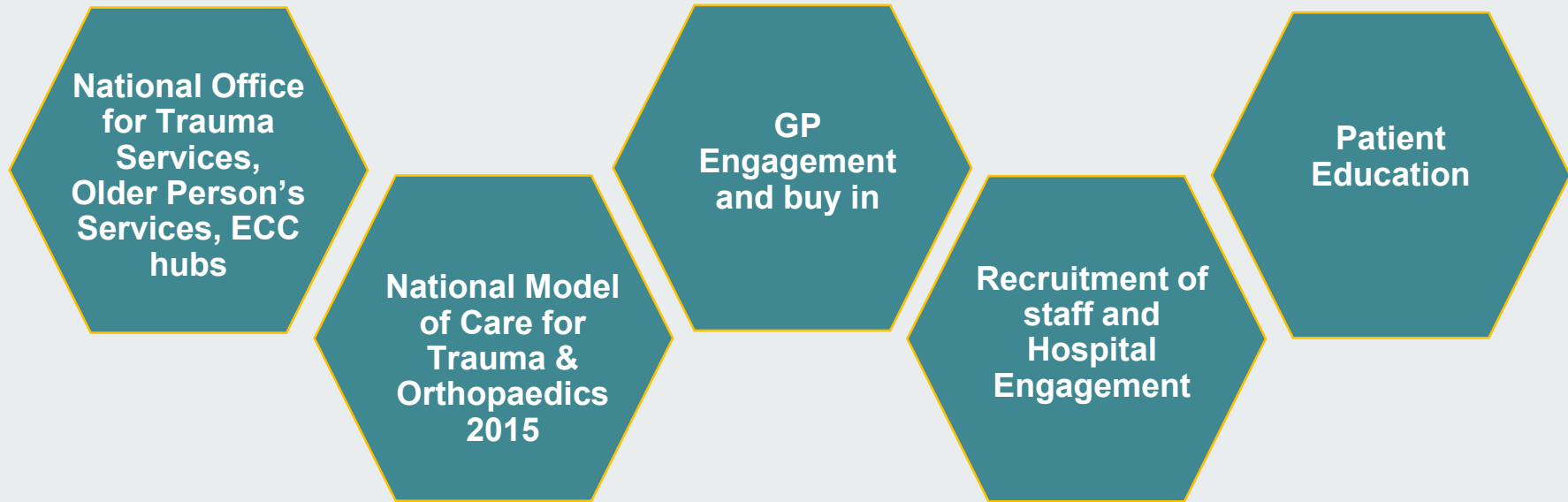
Future State

- FLS promotes preventative community based care as opposed to a reliance on reactive medicine.
- The implementation of a national FLS will promote hospital avoidance through a reduction in fragility fracture presentations. This will create capacity within the system to meet scheduled Orthopaedic care requirements and better utilise already limited in-patient bed capacity.
- This service will bring immeasurable gains to the people who would otherwise go on to have a painful, and potentially life threatening second fragility fracture.
- FLS is globally acknowledged as the gold standard means of reducing fracture numbers in the population. There is a comprehensive international best practice framework “Capture the Fracture” which makes implementation measurable and evidence based.

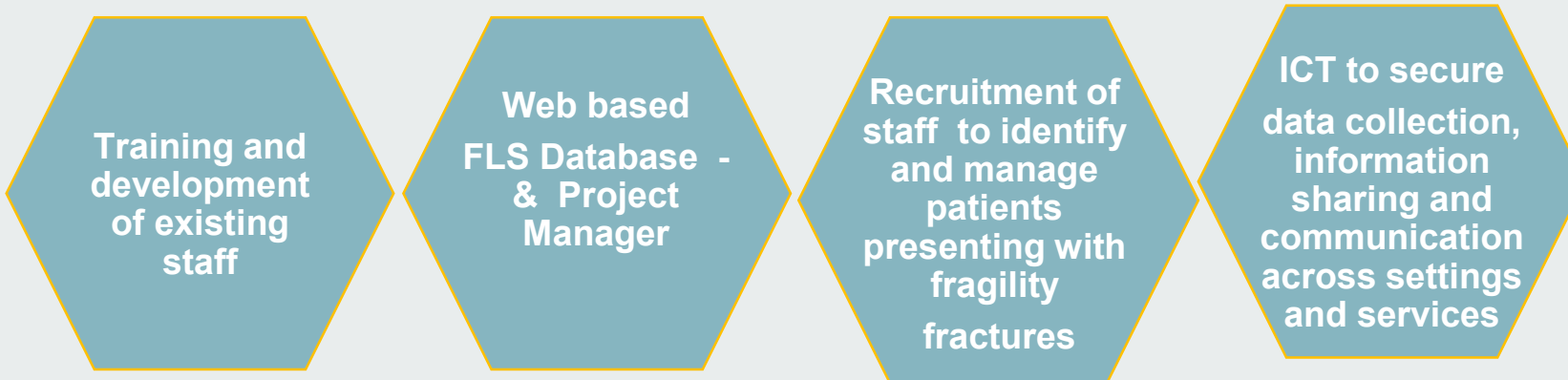
Key Changes to Implement this Pathway

- Appropriate resourcing for Fracture Liaison Services nationally
- Collection and management of data through the FLS Database to track the actual number of fragility fractures presenting annually

Key Dependencies to Implement Pathway



Key Enablers to Implement Pathway



Rationale

- The implementation of an FLS has been highlighted in the “Strategy to Prevent Falls and Fractures in Ireland’s Ageing Population” 2008, National Clinical Programme for Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery (NCPTOS) Model of Care (2015) and is a recommendation of the Trauma Steering Group in their report “A Trauma System for Ireland” (2018).

Pathway Diagram



