

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

Guideline scope

Fractures (complex): assessment and management

This is the scope of the current live version of the guideline. It takes into account comments from registered stakeholders during consultation for the original guideline and each of the previous updates.

What the guideline currently covers

Populations

Adults, young people and children who present with a suspected complex fracture.
This includes people with:

- open fractures
- pilon fractures
- pelvis fractures, including those with acetabular fractures.

Equality considerations

NICE has carried out [equality impact assessments](#). The assessments:

- list equality issues identified, and how they have been addressed
- explain why any populations are excluded from the scope.

Settings

All settings in which NHS care is received or commissioned.

Activities, services or aspects of care

We looked at evidence in the areas below when developing the guideline.

- 1 Initial triage by pre-hospital care provider

- 1 2 Initial assessment and management by pre-hospital care provider
- 2 3 Acute-stage clinical assessment
- 3 4 Acute stage imaging assessment (including choice and timing of imaging modality and imaging parameters)
- 5 6 The timing of referral and criteria for acceptance by the specialist centre
- 6 7 Initial management and treatment plan
- 7 8 Ongoing management (including evaluation, and treatment plan)
- 8 9 Skills to be present within the multidisciplinary team
- 9 10 Documentation of clinical assessments and management for people with complex fractures (including pre-hospital and hospital documentation)
- 10 11 Information and support needs of patients and their families and carers when appropriate

14 *Review protocols*

15 For the review protocol for the 2022 update, see [evidence review A covering the evidence behind recommendation 1.2.31](#). The review protocols for the other recommendations are detailed in the [full guideline](#).

18 *Economic aspect*

19 We have taken economic aspects into account when making recommendations. For 20 each review question (or key area in the scope), we have reviewed the economic 21 evidence and, where appropriate, carried out economic modelling and analyses, 22 using an NHS and personal social services (PSS) perspective.

23 *Areas covered in other published guidance*

24 NICE has produced guidance on the experience of people using the NHS and best 25 practice in health and social care. This guideline will not include additional 26 recommendations on these topics unless there are specific issues not covered by 27 this guidance.

1 **Methods**

2 The guideline and its update have been developed using the methods and
3 processes in [developing NICE guidelines: the manual](#).

4 **Where this guidance applies**

5 NICE guidelines cover health and care in England. Decisions on how they apply in
6 other UK countries are made by ministers in the [Welsh Government](#), [Scottish](#)
7 [Government](#) and [Northern Ireland Executive](#).

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