



# North West Children's Major Trauma Pathway

<b>Source Document:</b>	North West Children's Major Trauma Operational Delivery Network (ODN) Clinical Guidelines
<b>Version:</b>	4
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<b>Updates:</b>	30/10/2024 P2-Added Macclesfield District General Hospital (LEH), changed North Wales Hospitals from LEH to TU

## North West Children's Major Trauma Pathway

Each Trauma Unit and Local Emergency Hospital is linked to a named designated Major Trauma Centre. Please see table below.

### Designated Trauma Units & Local District Hospitals for each MTC

RMCH	AHCH
<p><b>Cheshire and Mersey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Macclesfield District General Hospital (LEH)</li> </ul> <p><b>Greater Manchester</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stockport NHS Trust (TU)</li> <li>• Royal Albert and Edward Wigan (TU)</li> <li>• Royal Oldham (TU)</li> <li>• Salford Royal FT Trust (TU / Adult MTC)</li> <li>• Wythenshawe Hospital (TU)</li> <li>• Fairfield Hospital (LEH)</li> <li>• North Manchester General Hospital (LEH)</li> <li>• Royal Bolton Hospital (LEH)</li> <li>• Tameside Hospital (LEH)</li> </ul> <p><b>Lancashire and South Cumbria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Royal Preston Hospital (TU / Adult MTC)</li> <li>• Blackburn Royal Infirmary (TU)</li> <li>• Chorley and South Ribble Hospital (LEH)</li> <li>• Burnley General Hospital (LEH)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cheshire and Mersey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrow Park Hospital (TU)</li> <li>• Leighton Hospital (TU)</li> <li>• Countess of Chester Hospital (TU)</li> <li>• Southport and Ormskirk Hospital (TU)</li> <li>• Whiston Hospital (TU)</li> <li>• Warrington Hospital (TU)</li> </ul> <p><b>Isle of Man</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noble's Hospital (LEH)</li> </ul> <p><b>North West Midlands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leighton Hospital (Mid Cheshire NHS Trust) (TU)</li> <li>• Royal Stoke Hospital (North Staffs Only) (TU)</li> </ul> <p><b>North Wales</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ysbyty Gwnedd (TU)</li> <li>• Glan Clwyd (TU)</li> <li>• Wrexham Maelor (TU)</li> </ul> <p><b>Lancashire and South Cumbria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Royal Lancaster Infirmary (TU)</li> <li>• Blackpool Victoria Hospital (TU)</li> <li>• Furness General Hospital (TU)</li> </ul>

# North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Paramedic Pathfinder - Major Trauma in Children

V 2.0 1 September 2015

This process applies to children who may have suffered major trauma

Complete Primary Survey  
ABCD

Unmanageable airway  
Unmanageable breathing  
Unmanageable catastrophic haemorrhage

Yes

Activate Major Trauma Alert  
Immediate transport to nearest Trauma Unit or Trauma Centre

No

Respiratory rate abnormal for age  
Pulse abnormal for age or CRT > 3 sec  
GCS 12 or less

Yes

Activate Major Trauma Alert  
Prompt transport to nearest Trauma Centre if under 60 min drive otherwise proceed to nearest Trauma Unit

No

Flail chest  
Penetrating trauma to the head, neck, trunk or limbs proximal to elbow / knee  
Fractures to two or more long bones (humerus/femur)  
Amputation proximal to wrist/ankle  
Ischaemic limbs  
Suspected spinal injury with new onset motor deficit

Yes



No

Inappropriate behaviour post injury (too quiet or inconsolable)  
Dangerous or significant mechanism  
Death in the same passenger compartment  
Entrapment  
Complete or partial ejection from a motor vehicle  
Significant co-morbidities  
Pregnancy of 20 weeks or more  
Other clinician concern

Yes

Contact Trauma Cell for senior clinical advice  
Proceed as advised

No

Not high major trauma risk  
Apply Paramedic Pathfinder for Trauma

AGE	RR	PULSE
< 2 y	30 - 40	110 - 160
2 - 5 y	25 - 30	95 - 140
5 - 11 y	20 - 25	80 - 120
> 12 y	15 - 20	60 - 100

SEE NWA PAEDIATRIC TAPE

**Request senior clinical support (AP, Consultant Paramedic) early.**  
**However, do not delay transport.**

## North West Major Trauma Children's Network

### Pathway for Transferring a Major Trauma Child into a Major Trauma Centre

**DO**

- 1. Stabilise patient**
- Stabilise airway
  - Support breathing
  - Stop catastrophic haemorrhage

- 2. Make calls to:**
- Designated Children's Major Trauma Centre
  - **Speak to the TTL and agree transfer**
  - Use ASICHE Report to provide information (Age, Sex, History, Injuries, Condition, Estimated Time of Arrival)
  - NWTS if required for advice on stabilisation and transfer
  - NWAS to arrange Category 2 Transfer - Major Trauma

- 3. Ensure:**
- Transfer with local team
  - Documentation sent with patient
  - Inform TTL when the child leaves your hospital
  - Inform TTL at MTC if safeguarding concerns
  - Images are transferred with PACS



NWTS  
0800 084 8382

Royal Manchester  
Children's Hospital  
0161 701 9191

Alder Hey  
Children's Hospital  
0151 252 5401

NWAS  
0345 140 0144

**DON'T**

- Delay Transfer.
- Contact individual specialist/check bed availability (this will be done by the ED consultant at the MTC).
- Perform unnecessary procedures.
- Perform CT unless advised by MTC.



## PAEDIATRIC TIME-CRITICAL TRANSFER GUIDELINES

### WHO DOES THIS APPLY TO?

All children under 16 years with one of:

- Major trauma – see NWS pathfinder
- Suspicion of raised intracranial pressure or a space-occupying intracranial lesion
- Acute surgical abdomen/limb injury with suspected ischaemia

### MAIN POINTS

#### 4 Do's.....

Stabilise the patient  
Stop major haemorrhage  
Organise transfer  
Documentation

#### 4 Calls

Children's Major Trauma Centre  
(AHCH or RMCH)  
NWS  
NWS  
Safeguarding Team

#### 4 Don't's.....

Delay  
Undertake CT unless advised  
Forget C-spine immobilisation  
Do unnecessary procedures

- SAFE but RAPID transfer
- AVOID HYPOXIA , HYPOTENSION or HYPOGLYCAEMIA to prevent secondary injury
- Do not delay transfer to ChMTC (Alder Hey or Royal Manchester Children's Hospital) or specialist surgical centre as this increases risk of serious injury or death
- Transfer should be undertaken by local team not NWS
- Departure to ChMTC or specialist surgical centre should occur within 1 hour of arrival in hospital

#### Responsibilities of Trauma Team

Stabilise child  
Intubate and ventilate child if required  
Stop major haemorrhage and treat circulatory instability  
Contact ChMTC (for telephone numbers see below)  
Contact NWS (08000 848382) for advice if PICU/PHDU level patient  
Discuss need for CT scan with ChMTC  
Identify appropriate transfer team (experienced anaesthetist and appropriate nurse/ODP)  
Contact NWS via 999 and ask for a "Category 2 Major Trauma Transfer" or equivalent ambulance  
Arrange PACS transfer and copies of unencrypted CD of all images to ChMTC  
Refer to safeguarding team if appropriate  
Undertake transfer

**NWS: 08000 84 83 82**

Alder Hey Major  
Trauma Team

0151 252 5401

#### NWS will....

Liaise with any specialists required  
Advise DGH on stabilisation & transfer  
Inform PICU team about incoming transfer  
Encourage swift departure from DGH  
Inform transferring team which clinical area they should be taking child to (PED, PIC, PHD, theatres)

RMCH Major  
Trauma Team

0161 701 9191

For drug calculations use [www.crashcall.net](http://www.crashcall.net)

NWS Referral line number: 08000 84 83 82

NWTS Major Trauma Transfer Guideline v4 11.03.13.

**TOP TIPS FOR A SAFE TRANSFER**  
For drug calculations use [www.crashcall.net](http://www.crashcall.net)

**Equipment required - everything must be securely fixed onto trolley (check battery life)**  
Use Critical care transfer trolley if available  
Appropriate portable ventilator (Babypac under 10kg, Ventipac >10kg, Breas LTV or Oxylog 3000+ for >5kg)  
Ensure enough oxygen for transfer  
Portable monitor (ECG, sats, ETCO<sub>2</sub> (if ventilated) and non-invasive BP on 5 minute cycle)  
Battery powered infusion pumps  
Vacuum mattress or spinal board and collar/blocks for transfer plus means to fix onto trolley

<b>A/B</b>	Need for intubation: GCS < 8/15 or fluctuating LOC		
	Aim Saturations > 98%		
	Monitor and maintain end-tidal CO <sub>2</sub> 34-37 mmHg or 4.5-5 kPa		
	ETT secured: <b>ORAL</b> , correct size (min leak) & position (check on CXR). Do NOT cut ET tube		
	C spine immobilisation for all major trauma patients regardless of CT spine findings		
	Oro-gastric tube on free drainage		
<b>C</b>	Maintain Mean BP (& Cerebral Perfusion Pressure): approximate targets for age		
	One good, well secured peripheral line plus ability to place intra-osseous or 2 <sup>nd</sup> line		
	Do NOT delay transfer by placing arterial or central lines (or urinary catheter)		
	Use fluid bolus and dopamine or noradrenaline via intra-osseous or peripheral line to support BP		
	<b>Major bleeding? Trigger local major haemorrhage guidelines (children) including Tranexamic acid</b>		
<b>D</b>	Monitor pupil size & response every 15 minutes		
	Sedate adequately (morphine and midazolam) and paralyse for journey		
	Nurse 30° head up if possible for Head Injuries		
	Identify & treat seizures give phenytoin		
	Target temperature 36-37 °C. Treat hyperthermia/avoid hypothermia.		
	Maintain normal blood glucose (treat if low i.e. < 3)		
	Maintenance fluid: 0.9% saline (+ dextrose if glucose low)		
	Aim: sodium > 140 – if Na < 135 consider 2.7% saline bolus		
	Identify any associated injuries/problems		
		Age	Mean BP
	< 1 yr	55-65	> 40
	1-5 yrs	70-80	> 50
	6-11 yrs	80-90	>60
	12-14 yrs	85-95	>70

**MANAGEMENT OF SUSPECTED INTRACRANIAL PRESSURE SPIKES**  
**WARNING signs:** cardiovascular instability +/- urticarial/fleeting rashes  
**DEFINITE signs:** BRADYCARDIA/HYPERTENSION/PUPIL DILATATION  
 Ensure end-tidal CO<sub>2</sub> 34-37 mmHg or 4.5-5 kPa  
 Give Mannitol OR Hypertonic saline (2.7% NaCl)  
 Increase sedation (e.g. morphine/midazolam or fentanyl/propofol)

**Documentation**

Copy of notes/results/observation and prescription charts  
X-ray & CT scans sent via PACS and un-encrypted CD

**Parents**

Give them a copy of NWTS parent information leaflet ([www.nwts.nhs.uk](http://www.nwts.nhs.uk)) which has directions to both regional paediatric neurosurgical/major trauma centres plus the direct phone number of relevant PICU  
Make sure transfer team have parents' contact details  
Ensure parents are safe to travel in their own vehicle: if not organise taxi

References: NICE Head Injury Guidelines, NW Major Trauma Network, STRS guidelines

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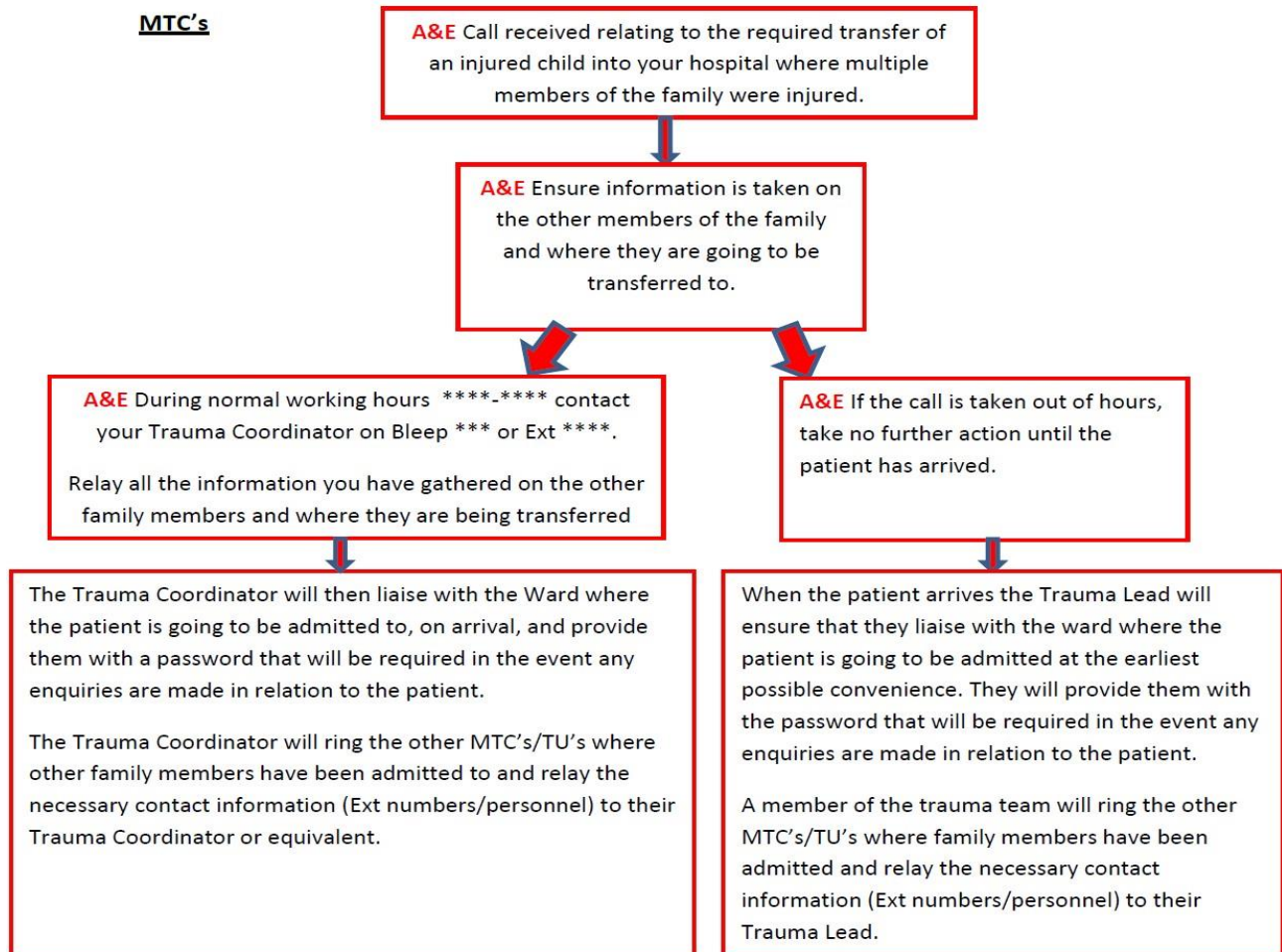
Please use the following link for the NWTS STOPP Tool <http://www.nwts.nhs.uk/clinicalguidelines>

## Sharing of Information in the Event of Family Separation

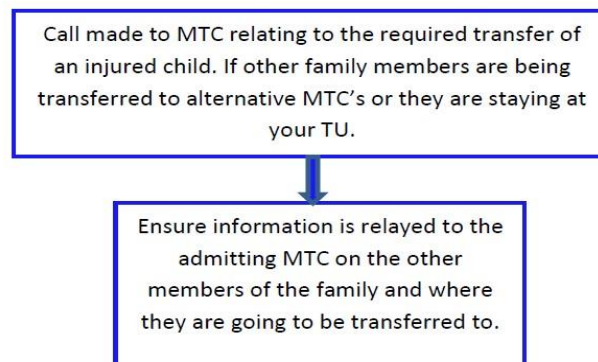
### Protocol for the sharing of information where families are split between MTC's/TU's.

This protocol should be used by MTC's and TU's to ensure that information is shared in the safest way between hospitals in the event a family becomes split due their age/trauma injuries.

#### MTC's



#### TU's





## Trauma Team Triggers:

- 1) On receipt of Major Trauma pre-alert from NWS or Trauma Unit, self-presentation of trauma patient with or later presentation of:

**Anatomical triggers:**  
 Unmanageable airway (not protecting own)  
 Unsupportable inadequate breathing  
 Unstoppable haemorrhage (not controlled by simple pressure)

**Physiological triggers:** GCS 12 or less  
 Abnormal physiology: (guide values):

Age	Heart Rate beats/min		Respiratory Rate breaths/min	Systolic BP mmHg
	<i>Tachycardia</i>	<i>Bradycardia</i>		
0-7 days	>180	<100	<30 or >60	<60
7-28 days	>180	<100	<30 or >60	<80
1 month – 1 year	>180	<90	<30 or >40	<75
2-5 years	>140	<60	<25 or >30	<75
6-12 years	>130	<60	<20 or >25	<85
>12 years	>110	<60	<15 or >20	<90

**Clinical signs triggers**  
 Flail chest  
 Penetrating trauma to head, neck, trunk, or limbs proximal to elbow or knees  
 Fractures of 2 or more long bones (humerus/femur/tibia) or fractured pelvis  
 Amputation proximal to wrist or ankle  
 Crushed, mangled or degloved extremities  
 New onset sensory or motor deficits (whole limb or partial)  
 Rigid abdomen  
 Severe burns >20%

**Mechanism of injury triggers**  
 Falls over 3 times patient's own height  
 Entrapment  
 Complete or partial ejection from a motor vehicle  
 Death in the same passenger compartment

**Other triggers**  
 Significant comorbidities  
 Pregnancy of 20 or more weeks  
 Other clinician concern