

The Scottish Trauma Network and the Role of the Major Trauma Coordinator

The Scottish Trauma Network went live in August 2021. The aim of the network is to improve and optimise the health and wellbeing of the most seriously injured. It aims to deliver the right care, in the right place, at the right time reducing mortality. The network delivers all aspects of trauma care, from the point of injury through to rehabilitation. A broad definition of a major trauma is classified as an injury severity score (ISS) of >15. The core ethos of the Scottish Trauma network is Saving Lives, Giving Life Back.

The network is split into four regions, with NHSL sitting within the West of Scotland. Flow through the network starts with the application of the major trauma triage tool which triages patients to the appropriate hospital. Pre-hospital patients will triage to either the Major Trauma Centre, Trauma Unit or Local Emergency hospital. The Major Trauma Centre in the West of Scotland is the QEUH. Within NHSL, UHW is the trauma unit, with UHH and UHM being the local emergency hospitals. The purpose of the network is to ensure patients flow through the network safely and appropriately.

To ensure this cohesive flow, there are Band 7 Major Trauma Coordinators in post at the Major Trauma Centre and all Trauma Units. The Major Trauma Coordinator is an autonomous practitioner who is the single point of contact for a major trauma patient throughout their journey through the network. Locally this is from trauma call through to community care post discharge.

Within UHW, major trauma patients predominantly sit within critical care, surgical and orthopaedics. These complex patients have multiple clinical care and rehabilitation needs. These will be overseen by the major trauma coordinators in the following ways:

- Facilitating repatriations and flow within the network
- Coordinating patient care between specialties and disciplines ensuring every injury has a plan which has been actioned
- Supporting staff to ensure safe and timely care
- Ensuring cohesive rehabilitation and supporting early discharge
- Initiating speciality referrals (eg, major trauma psychology service, community brain injury team)
- Planning and delivering education programmes
- Contributing to service improvements
- Leading on quality improvement programmes
- Liaising and contributing to the West of Scotland trauma network

The major trauma team for NHSL is:

Dr Kat Bennett - NHSL Clinical Lead for Major Trauma

Background - Consultant in Anaesthetics, Intensive Care and Pre-hospital Emergency Medicine (PHEM)

Audrey McConnachie - Major Trauma Coordinator

Background – Critical care nurse since 1995. Senior charge nurse in Critical care from 2015-2019. Specialist interest in the follow up care of ICU patients including major trauma patients. Delivered a nurse led consultant supported critical care liaison service at UHW. Also worked in Medical Education with special interest in SIM training. Qualified ALS instructor.

Louise Houston - Major Trauma Coordinator

Background – Occupational therapist with experience working within Orthopaedics, surgical, medical, Medicine of older adults and Stroke. Comprehensive understanding of the impact of major trauma on function, including patients who have experienced a traumatic brain injury. Understanding of the rehab pathways and support available within NHSL.