

Latest Developments of Fracture Clinic Services

Patients seen in accident and emergency with musculoskeletal injury who do not require immediate admission are referred into the fracture clinic run by a cohort of orthopaedic doctors, senior orthopaedic practitioners and more recently sports and exercise physicians, all of whom have a subset of specialist skills. Historically these patients were booked into the next available clinic slot.

More recently a virtual fracture has been developed in department in which all these patients are booked into a list or 'virtual clinic' which is reviewed by a consultant every weekday morning with the images and documentation. Patients are then booked into the most appropriate specialist clinic at the most appropriate time or discharged with telephone advice. This has reduced unnecessary early reviews, reduced transfer of patients between subspecialists and has provided an additional layer of safety for patients in which missed injuries are picked up early.

Due to the risks of corona virus exposure there has also been a significant push to telephone consultations rather than face to face. These clinics have been welcomed by the majority of patients who have found the experience easier and less time consuming, and generally more likely to run on time. This is likely to remain in the long term with plans afoot to develop telephone pods specifically for phone consultations and the development of video reviews.