

Northern Regional Traumatic Brain Injury Communication Pathway

For patients with Severe (GCS 3-8), Moderate (GCS 9-13) and Minor (GCS 14-15 *WITH* extra axial collection) brain injury AND / OR open brain injury

The Northern Regional Trauma Network and ADHB Neurosurgery Service has developed the following pathway to better the communication between the Northern Region's tertiary Neurosurgery service and the regional hospitals without a neurosurgery service for minor to moderate brain injury.

The pathway promotes;

- **The patient information the Neurosurgery Service require for a phone consultation**
- **Neurosurgery Service documented notes and treatment plan on Concerto following the phone consultation**
- **Identifying the Neurosurgery SMO for any (virtual) follow up**

Roll Out

Please roll out the following Pathway in your respective DHB;

- Upload on the DHB Intranet
- Print out and post in ED and other relevant services
- Facilitate education opportunities for clinicians most likely to utilise the Pathway

For severe brain injuries utilise 0800 4 Trauma in the first instance. Patients clinical care should follow the northerntrauma.co.nz guidelines.



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Step 1
phone

For patients requiring immediate transfer as per northerntrauma.co.nz Guidelines – 0800 4 TRAUMA
OR
For all other patients –
Neurosurgical Registrar on call at ADHB - 021782472

Step 2
discuss

Provide the following to the on-call Neurosurgical team

- ✓ age, NHI and name if known
- ✓ mechanism of injury
- ✓ exam findings
 - pupil response
 - current observations, including GCS and best motor score
 - focal signs
- ✓ other injuries
 - skull injuries (especially compound)
 - other traumatic injuries
- ✓ background
 - anticoagulants
 - comorbidities
 - usual functional state

Step 3
document

Clearly document in the clinical notes:

- ✓ the named ('virtual') neurosurgical consultant
- ✓ destination – if patient *is for* transfer
- ✓ management advice (including observations, medications, repeat scanning, cognitive screening etc)

Within 12 hours the Neurosurgical team will have documented the treatment plan on Concerto via a SMT (Standard Medical Template) for clinicians at the regional hospital to view

Step 4
on going
care

- ✓ In hours – 'Virtual' Consultant - This is the named consultant who was the initial point of contact whose details can be found via MEDIROTA (username nsroata@adhb.govt.nz password neuro2020) or Auckland switchboard
- ✓ Out of hours - the on-call neurosurgical team 021782472 or Auckland switchboard

Patients clinical care should follow the northerntrauma.co.nz guidelines