

## Patient Information – Virtual Fracture Clinic

### Department of Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery

#### Introduction

Evidence has shown that face-to-face attendance at a traditional fracture clinic after an injury is unnecessary in many cases. It is certainly inconvenient and sometimes impossible due to pain and immobility.

In line with emerging evidence, our fracture clinics have been reconfigured for the patient's injuries to be assessed in a new, safe, effective and validated **Virtual Fracture Clinic (VFC)**. The outcomes of the VFC will be monitored and audited for quality assurance.

**After your injury is assessed in the Emergency Department, you will be referred to VFC.**

Your Emergency Department documentation and X-ray(s) will be reviewed by an orthopaedic surgeon in this virtual fracture clinic, and they will make a management plan/treatment recommendation.

An experienced orthopaedic nurse will then contact you by telephone within 72 hours after your discharge from the Emergency Department to discuss the management/treatment of your injury. This might consist of advice and reassurance, physiotherapy referral, use or change of plasters or splints, arrangement of an appointment at the most appropriate specialist clinic, or in some scenarios, recommendation of an operation.

**Please ensure you have provided the Emergency Department with a telephone number you can be contacted on after you have left the hospital.**

You will **not** need to attend the hospital for the virtual fracture clinic assessment to take place. An orthopaedic nurse from the virtual fracture clinic will call you on a weekday (Monday to Friday) between the hours of 12 noon and 4pm.

If you haven't heard anything within 72 hours of receiving this leaflet, or you are concerned about your injury, please contact the **Virtual Fracture Clinic by telephone: 0778 817 8689**

Virtual fracture clinic nurses can be contacted by telephone. Whilst the clinic is running, we may be unable to take calls but the answerphone is checked on a regular basis, so please leave a message. We will respond to all clear messages that are left.

All patients and their General Practitioner (GP) will receive a letter outlining the assessment and the outcome of their virtual fracture clinic assessment.

