**Fracture Liaison Services (FLS)**

Fracture Liaison Services (FLS) systematically identify people aged 50 and older who have had a ‘fragility fracture’, with the aim of reducing their risk of further fractures.

* Did you know?
  + 3.5 million people in the UK have Osteoporosis
  + One in two women and one in five men will break a bone after the age of 50
  + An estimated 500,000 fragility fractures occur in the UK every year
  + People who have had one fracture remain at two- to three-fold greater risk of sustaining another (secondary fracture)
  + More than half of neck of femur fractures have sustained a previous fragility fracture
  + Effective management of Osteoporosis and falls can reduce fracture risk by 50%

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| FLS Service for Southampton City patients and those admitted to SGH compared to Hampshire patients not admitted to SGH | Southampton City/ Inpatient | Hampshire |
| Identify | | |
| Patients aged over 50 with new Fragility Fracture |  |  |
| Investigate | | |
| Referrals for DEXA and bloods as appropriate |  |  |
| Fracture risk assessment |  | Ref to GP |
| Falls risk assessment |  | Ref to GP |
| Inform | | |
| Patient education – Osteoporosis, lifestyle, medication options, falls reduction, next steps |  | Ref to GP |
| Handouts/signposting to appropriate support services |  | Ref to GP |
| Intervene | | |
| Initiate Osteoporosis drug treatment | Or Ref to GP | Ref to GP |
| Referral to falls prevention services |  | Ref to GP |
| Review at 16 and 52 weeks to ensure:  treatment started and taking appropriately  falls reduction programme referrals actioned |  | Ref to GP |

**Southampton Fracture Liaison Service**

The service received by the patient is dependent on their postcode. See table below;

Green = Provided by Southampton FLS Red = Not provided by Southampton FLS

**Initiation of treatment:**

* Where possible, patients will be initiated on bone protection treatment whilst an inpatient.
* **Most patients will be initiated on treatment via the GP** with complex cases triaged into Fragility Fracture Clinic by Fracture Prevention Practitioners.
* For those assessed by the FLS; a letter will be sent to the GP including the full assessment notes to support treatment decisions.
* Vitamin D and Calcium supplementation alone is not considered ‘bone protection’.

The Royal Osteoporosis Society Provides Clinical Standards for Fracture Liaison Services which can be found here: <https://theros.org.uk/media/1eubz33w/ros-clinical-standards-for-fracture-liaison-services-august-2019.pdf>

For further information or any questions, please contact: [fls@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:fls@uhs.nhs.uk)