

Quality improvement project: discharge of innocuous fractures from A+E

Lucy Dennell, Orthopaedic Consultant and I, Ayman Elsadawi, A&E Specialty Doctor at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Kings Lynn are working on a quality improvement project.

Which patients will be affected?

The project is for children under the age of 11 years, presenting to A&E with mid-shaft clavicle fracture. The other group of patients is those with distal radius buckle fractures.

How will it work?

All members of staff taking part in this project will have had a dedicated training session.

After appropriate counselling and patient information is given by A&E doctors or extended scope nurse practitioners, we will discharge them home from A&E without the need for a fracture clinic follow up appointment.

Children with mid-shaft clavicle fractures will be treated with a sling and analgesia, and children with distal radius buckle fracture will be treated with a paediatric Futura splint and analgesia.

There is more than enough evidence in the literature that the above management is sufficient to treat the types of the fractures mentioned above.

Full written advice will be given to the patients and their parents on discharge about the type of the fracture, how to handle the sling and splint and the phone numbers to call case if they have any concern.

Why are we doing this?

This is going to save the patients and their parent or guardian the time and effort of another hospital visit and the hassle of arranging a day off work and the loss of school day.

What do I need to do?

We would be grateful if you could read through the two enclosed patient information leaflets. We are not expecting you to have to do anything proactively but wanted to inform you of our change in practice.

How will you know if it is working well?

We plan to audit the records of the patients discharged in this way three months after the start date.

If you have any suggestions, comments or queries please email Lucy Dennell: lucy.dennell@gehkl.nhs.uk or myself Ayman Elsadawi: ayman.elsadawi@gehkl.nhs.uk

Finally, we would appreciate if you let us know when any of the above mentioned cases presented to you with complaint related to their injuries after discharge from A&E.

Yours faithfully

Ayman Esadawi

A&E Specialty Doctor

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital