

Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information which we received on Thursday 7th November 2024. I am pleased to confirm the following.

Guidelines followed:

At Milton Keynes A&E, we follow the NICE Head Injury guidelines for both adult and paediatric patients.

Trauma CT Scans for Elderly patients:

For elderly patients who present following a fall, we adhere to the RCEM Silver Trauma Pathway for Trauma CT scans.

Specialist Neurosurgical input:

When specialist input is required, we contact the neurosurgery team at Oxford Hospital and follow their advice regarding admission or transfer to their care.

Admission policies for Head Injury patients:

We have a local admission policy tailored specifically for head injury patients. Depending on the severity of the injuries and the presence of comorbidities, patients may be admitted under the Trauma & Orthopaedics team or the Medical team.

Patient Information Leaflets:

A Patient Information Leaflet is provided to both adult and paediatric head injury patients upon discharge. This leaflet includes all relevant information, such as the nature of the injury, symptoms to monitor, recovery advice, and contact details for support services.

Elderly patients and safe discharge:

For elderly patients, our dedicated Frailty/Home First team reviews them to ensure safe discharge. If a review by the team is not possible (e.g., out of hours), patients are admitted under the Medical team for further assessment.

Timeliness and Operational Constraints:

While the NICE guidelines specify timelines, such as triage within 15 minutes, observation frequency post head injury and a provisional CT report within 1 hour, these targets may not always be achievable due to various operational challenges, including:

High patient acuity

Staff shortages

Increased patient influx into A&E

Despite these challenges, we strive to provide timely and high-quality care to all patients.

Communication and Family Support:

Where possible, we accommodate family members accompanying patients. We prioritise clear communication with both patients and their families, ensuring they are kept informed throughout their care. For patients discharged to care homes, printed discharge summaries are provided.

If you are unhappy with the information received in response to this request, please address your complaint to the Patient Affairs Office at Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Standing Way, Eaglestone, Milton Keynes MK6 5LD. If, after exhausting our internal process, you are still unhappy with the information received, you may write to the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address above.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Co-ordinator
For and on behalf of Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Any re-use of this information will be subject to the
'Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations' and best practice.