

United Kingdom Major Trauma Networks Consensus Statement Repatriation of Trauma Patients Across National Boundaries

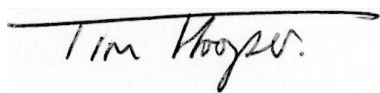
National and regional major trauma networks have comprehensive repatriation pathways and agreements. These highlight the overarching principles, timelines and escalation policies to ensure trauma patients who need repatriation from injury location back to their local area is done so in an efficient and timely manner.

The clinical directors and managers of the 4 respective national trauma systems in the United Kingdom agree this approach should also relate to repatriation across national boundaries.

It is agreed that:

- Once fit for transfer, patients should be transferred to an appropriate healthcare facility in their local receiving area within 48 hours of formal notification. The receiving healthcare provider will be based on patient need, not the facility's designation.
- Clear and continued communication must be maintained between the referring and receiving teams throughout the transfer process. All communications should be clearly documented in the patient's record including names and contact numbers of those involved.
- The mechanics of the transfer will be arranged and coordinated by the referring teams.
- Transfer costs will be borne by the receiving/local healthcare provider. These arrangements apply to England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- If repatriation is delayed beyond 48 hours without good reason, local escalation policies within the receiving facility should be initiated. Where these fail to achieve a timely transfer the referring team's regional or national manager or director should be informed in order to escalate further.

This consensus statement should be used in conjunction with the relevant local, regional and national policies to ensure trauma patients are repatriated to the appropriate healthcare facility as close to home as possible in a timely manner.



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