



Orthogeriatric: Acute Hip Fracture Management model of care

An expert working group including clinicians and consumers from across the state has developed a new model of care for the treatment of hip fractures in older South Australians (aged over 65 or aged over 50 and identify as Aboriginal and/or present with other existing geriatric syndromes).

This Consumer Guide outlines the level of care you can expect to receive once the new model of care is implemented.

A person with a hip fracture will be directed to a specialist Orthogeriatric Fracture Centre

SA Ambulance Service will transport a person with a suspected hip fracture (who is within a 60 minute travel distance by road) directly to the closest Orthogeriatric Fracture Centre. To be considered an Orthogeriatric Fracture Centre, a hospital will need to meet minimum service level requirements as defined in the model of care.

If you are outside of this travel time range, you will be transported to your closest local public hospital for medical stabilisation prior to being transferred to an Orthogeriatric Fracture Centre.

You will receive timely and effective pain management

If you have a hip fracture, you will receive timely and effective analgesia (pain relief medication) to ensure your pain is managed and you are comfortable throughout your entire journey.

You will be treated under an orthogeriatric shared model of care

Orthopaedic surgeons and orthogeriatricians will work together under a collaborative model of care to provide you with holistic care at the highest possible level from the time of admission through to the time of discharge from hospital.

Surgical management will be provided in a timely manner

If you are medically stable and require surgery, your surgery will be scheduled on the same day or the next day after your initial hospital presentation. If you require additional time for medical attention prior to surgery, you will be given the highest possible level of care to ensure your condition is stable before surgery. Once you are ready for surgery, it will be scheduled as soon as practicable.

You will be supported to begin rehabilitation as soon as possible

Evidence shows that patients have better outcomes if they begin rehabilitation as soon as they are ready. You will be seen by a physiotherapist and encouraged to begin rehabilitation the day after surgery, unless it is not safe to do so.

You will be provided with a personalised discharge plan and ongoing support

A multi-disciplinary team will develop a supportive and personalised discharge plan for each patient. The discharge plan will include contact information, ongoing pain management, a rehabilitation plan, and any other clinical requirements specific to your ongoing care.

You will receive regular consultation with all care providers

You and/or your carers will be regularly consulted by all of your care providers throughout your treatment. This will ensure you are given the opportunity to ask any questions to help you to make important decisions about your care and to discuss advance care directives.

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander patients will receive culturally appropriate and respectful care

If you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, you will be allocated an Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer to ensure you receive culturally respectful care throughout your entire care journey.

SA Health will measure and deliver best clinical practice

Patient experiences will be recorded in accordance with SA Health's privacy and confidentiality policies and procedures. Data will be collected through patient surveys and clinical audits to ensure the model of care is being delivered effectively.

For more information

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