

Ref. No: 2061
Date: 18/09/25
Subject: Trauma in elderly patients attending ED

REQUEST

1. Does your hospital have a guideline for silver trauma patients (>65 years old) attending ED?
2. What are the ED's indications for initiating a silver trauma call and requesting a trauma CT for elderly patients at your hospital?
3. Which specialties are called for silver trauma in ED? Does it include General surgery, Orthopaedics, Anaesthetics and Medicine of the elderly?
4. Does your hospital have a guideline for assessing delirium in silver trauma patients (>65 years old)?
5. Do all the silver trauma patients get reviewed by medicine of the elderly on the ward if admitted?
6. Do you have a guideline for assessment of the silver trauma patients on the ward by medicine of the elderly?
7. Can you please attach your hospital's guidelines for silver trauma patients in your reply?

RESPONSE

S&O Response

1. *Does your hospital have a guideline for silver trauma patients (>65 years old) attending ED?*

We use a silver trauma assessment at triage tool to identify silver trauma patients. This together with guidance from our local Major Trauma Network and working group for trauma in older people.

2. *What are the ED's indications for initiating a silver trauma call and requesting a trauma CT for elderly patients at your hospital?*

Significant mechanism (As per the trauma team activation criteria)

Pedestrian or Cyclist RTC

Trauma with suspected chest/abdominal/long bone/vertebral injury

Taking anticoagulants

Head Injury

3. *Which specialties are called for silver trauma in ED? Does it include General surgery, Orthopaedics, Anaesthetics and Medicine of the elderly?*

No differentiated 'Silver Trauma' trauma call – Specialities as per standard trauma call. Anaesthetics, General Surgery, Orthopaedics.

4. *Does your hospital have a guideline for assessing delirium in silver trauma patients (>65 years old)?*

4AT is used widely across the site for assessing delirium in all patients. Not specifically those who are over 65 years.

5. *Do all the silver trauma patients get reviewed by medicine of the elderly on the ward if admitted?*

There are good links between the major trauma service and the geriatric consultant body which enables 'silver trauma' patients to be highlighted to the consultant for review on the ward.

6. *Do you have a guideline for assessment of the silver trauma patients on the ward by medicine of the elderly?*

There is currently no formal documentation, however ward clinicians are supported by the guidance from the trauma network and development of a pathway and documentation is underway.

7. *Can you please attach your hospital's guidelines for silver trauma patients in your reply?*

Please see attached

STHK Response

1. Does your hospital have a guideline for silver trauma patients (>65 years old) attending ED?

Yes, local STAT pathway attached.
We also utilise relevant pathways provided by our local adult MTC.

2. What are the ED's indications for initiating a silver trauma call and requesting a trauma CT for elderly patients at your hospital?

No differentiation between silver trauma and standard adult trauma call. See attached STAT and trauma team activation pathways.
Trauma CT ordering dependent on clinical assessment.

3. Which specialties are called for silver trauma in ED? Does it include General surgery, Orthopaedics, Anaesthetics and Medicine of the elderly?

Standard adult trauma team called for silver trauma patients. This does not include Medicine of the Elderly (Anaesthetics, Orthopaedics and General Surgery are on the standard trauma team).

Ongoing discussion with Frailty team around silver trauma assessment in ED with the aim of silver trauma team pilot.

4. Does your hospital have a guideline for assessing delirium in silver trauma patients (>65 years old)?

The 4AT score is included in all adult ED paperwork and completed by the ED team on admission.

5. Do all the silver trauma patients get reviewed by medicine of the elderly on the ward if admitted?

Silver trauma patients:

- admitted to Care of the Elderly/Frailty wards will be seen by a Medicine of the Elderly clinician
- admitted to Orthopaedics with a confirmed neck of femur fracture will be reviewed by a Medicine of the Elderly clinician as part of the Orthogeriatrician service
- admitted to an Orthopaedic or Surgical ward currently are not routinely reviewed by a Medicine of the Elderly clinician unless requested by the admitting team

6. Do you have a guideline for assessment of the silver trauma patients on the ward by medicine of the elderly?

No we do not. We do refer to relevant guidance from our local adult MTC.

7. Can you please attach your hospital's guidelines for silver trauma patients in your reply?

Local pathways attached.