

## South West Strategic Health Authority

### Glossary for Trauma Network Briefing

Accident & Emergency department	Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments assess and treat patients who have serious injuries or illnesses without the need for a prior appointment
Cardiothoracic surgery	Cardiothoracic surgery is a surgical specialty, which deals with the diagnosis and management of surgical conditions of the heart, lungs and oesophagus (the tube from mouth to stomach)
Care pathway	A care pathway is the process of diagnosis, treatment and care that a patient goes through on a step by step basis from first contact with health services.
Clinical Advisory Group	A group of “expert” clinicians established at the outset of the review of major trauma care in the South West to provide advice to the Strategic Health Authority
Commissioner	Person or organisation responsible for commissioning a service
Commissioning	Term used to describe the overall process of planning, funding, procuring, and monitoring healthcare services.
Designation	Designation is a new way of commissioning that involves commissioners working closely with local clinicians, patients, carers and members of the public to ensure designated providers meet recommended safety and quality standards. Designation also prevents unsafe or wasteful duplication of specialised services, by formally designating an appropriate number of service providers to serve a population, that are best placed to provide high quality and best value services.
Interventional radiology	Defined by the British Society for Interventional Radiology (IR) it refers to a range of techniques which rely on the use radiological image guidance (X-ray fluoroscopy, ultrasound, computed tomography [CT] or magnetic resonance imaging [MRI]) to precisely target therapy. Most IR treatments are minimally invasive alternatives to open and laparoscopic (keyhole) surgery.
Local Hospital	A Local Hospital is a hospital in a trauma network that does not routinely receive acute trauma patients (excepting minor injuries that may be seen in a Minor

	Injuries Unit). It has processes in place to ensure that should this occur, patients are appropriately transferred to a Major Trauma Centre or Trauma Unit. It may have a role in the rehabilitation of trauma patients and the care of those with minor injuries.
Major Trauma	NHS Choice defines 'Major Trauma' as multiple, serious injuries that could result in disability or death. These might include serious head injuries, severe gunshot wounds or road traffic accidents. Major Trauma is defined in the scientific literature using the Injury Severity Score (ISS), which assigns a value to injuries in different parts of the body and totals them to give a figure representing the severity of injury. An ISS greater than 15 is defined as Major Trauma. This would include serious injuries such as bleeding in the brain or a fracture of the pelvis and cases of multiple injuries.
Major Trauma Centre	A Major Trauma Centre (MTC) is a hospital on a single site that acts as the focus of a trauma network. It manages all injuries, providing consultant-delivered care. It is optimised for the definitive care of injured patients. In particular it has an active, effective trauma quality improvement programme. It also provides a managed transition to rehabilitation. It takes responsibility for the care of all patients with major trauma in the area covered by the network. It also supports the quality improvement programmes of other hospitals in its network. It provides all the major specialist services relevant to the care of major trauma, i.e. general, vascular, orthopaedic, plastic, spinal, maxillofacial, cardiothoracic and neurological surgery and interventional radiology, along with appropriate supporting services, such as critical care.
Maxillofacial surgery	Oral and maxillofacial surgery is the surgical specialty concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting the mouth, jaws, face and neck.
NHS South West	NHS South West is the name of the Strategic Health Authority that is accountable for the performance of the NHS in the South West of England. Its role is to ensure the NHS in the South West is run effectively and that NHS services, staff and organisations are developed to meet the needs of the future.
Neurological surgery	The branch of surgery concerned with the diagnosis and treatment, usually surgical, of disorders involving the brain and nervous system

Orthopaedic surgery	The branch of surgery concerned with conditions involving the musculoskeletal system, i.e. the muscles, bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, cartilage of the human body
Peninsula	The Peninsula refers to the geographical area served by Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Torbay and Plymouth Primary Care Trusts
Primary Care Trust	A Primary Care Trust (PCT) is a type of NHS trust that is responsible for promoting health and securing health care for a local population either by commissioning services from a health care provider or directly providing services. Many PCTs are now calling themselves NHS and then the name of their geographical area to make it easier for local people to understand how the NHS is managed locally. Under proposals for restructuring the NHS, PCTs have recently come together to form clusters in readiness to hand over the responsibility for commissioning services to general practitioners.
Plastic surgery	Plastic surgery is concerned with the restoration of form or function. Although the best known type of plastic surgery is cosmetic, most is not carried out for cosmetic reasons and can include many types of reconstructive surgery and hand surgery, microsurgery and the treatment of burns.
Providers	Organisations responsible for providing services to patients
Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation is defined as “optimising function”. It is the process of re-establishment of skills by a person who has had an illness or injury so as to regain maximum self-sufficiency and function in a normal or as near normal manner as possible
South West Public Health Observatory (PHO)	One of nine regional organisations in England responsible for providing local agencies, populations, and networks with public health data and information to inform and shape health services
Strategic Health Authority (SHA)	Strategic Health Authorities were created by the government in 2002. Their role is to manage the local NHS on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health
Spinal surgery	Spinal surgery is a branch of orthopaedic surgery which concentrates on treatment of the back and spine

Stakeholders	A stakeholder is any person who has a stake and/or interest in the services that are planned, designated and procured. Stakeholders can be professionals, patients, carers, members of the public, volunteers.
Trauma Network	A Trauma Network is a collaboration between the providers of trauma care in an area. It includes all hospitals involved in the care of the injured, along with ambulance and rehabilitation services. At its heart is a Major Trauma Centre. It has appropriate links to social and voluntary care. The Network takes responsibility for all injured patients in its area, working to co-ordinate and improve the care they receive.
Trauma Unit	A Trauma Unit (TU) is a hospital in a Trauma Network that provides care for most injured patients. It is optimised for the definitive care of injured patients. In particular it has an active, effective trauma quality improvement programme. It also provides a managed transition to rehabilitation. It has systems in place to rapidly move the most severely injured to hospitals that can manage their injuries. Some trauma units may provide some specialist services for patients who do not have multiple injuries (e.g. burns or spinal injury). The Unit then takes responsibility for making these services available to patients in the network who need them. Other Trauma Units may have only limited facilities, being able to stabilise and transfer serious cases but only to admit and manage less severe injuries.
Vascular surgery	The branch of surgery specialising in treating the blood vessels, i.e. the arteries and veins of the body.