

Fracture Liaison Service News

Helping to Make Secondary Fracture Prevention a Reality

Welcome

On behalf of the National Clinical Programme for Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery (NCPTOS), we are delighted to launch the first National Fracture Liaison Service (FLS) Newsletter.

The development of a national co-ordinator based secondary fracture prevention service has been a strategic priority for the programme since commencement. The need for a national FLS is outlined in our 2015 Model of Care as well as being recommendation 15 of the 2018 report "A Trauma System for Ireland".

The programme established the FLS Steering Committee in March 2018 and is delighted to see how the service and the FLS Database have progressed during that time under the clinical leadership and guidance of the national leads, Mr Aaron Glynn and Professor Frances Dockery. The FLS Database was established in 2020 and Ireland is the 2nd country globally after the UK to establish such a database. The first Irish database report was published in 2022 and included data from 8 sites.

At the end of July 2023, there are now 11 sites around the country participating in data collection and using the fracture liaison service database. The Second National Fracture Liaison Service Database Report will be launched on Tuesday 26th September 2023 in RCSI, Dublin at 2pm.

We would like to thank all staff that work tirelessly to deliver this service to their patients and look forward to seeing the continuing development of this service over time.



Mr Paddy Kenny and Mr Finbarr Condon
Joint National Clinical Leads



Mr Aaron Glynn and Prof Frances Dockery
FLS Joint Clinical Leads

About the Fracture Liaison Service

A Fracture Liaison Service systematically identifies treats and refers to appropriate services, all patients aged over 50 years within a local population who have suffered a 'fragility' fracture (i.e. resulting from a low level of force or trauma), with the aim of reducing their risk of subsequent fractures, by addressing osteoporosis and falls risk.

It provides a person-centred integrated care approach to care and is globally acknowledged as the gold standard means of reducing fracture numbers in the population.

Ireland has one of the highest rates of hip fracture in Europe, according to a Europe-wide report in 2021 ([SCOPE report, by Kanis et al](#)) so FLS is an important step in addressing this.

In the past two years in Ireland, €1.5M recurring funding has been secured from the HSE for Fracture Liaison Services in Ireland and we hope to see a continued roll out of this service to all sites nationally, thus ensuring high quality, effective secondary prevention of fractures in Ireland.



FRAGILITY
FRACTURES
€37.4
BILLION



STROKE
€20
BILLION



CORONARY
HEART
DISEASE
€19
BILLION

Ref: www.capturethefracture.org

Outlined on [page 3](#) is the most recent allocation of resources that has been secured through the HSE's Modernised Care Pathways.

Acknowledgements

The National Clinical Programme for Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery, and the Fracture Liaison Service Steering Committee would like to thank Amgen and UCB for their ongoing financial support for the period - August 2020 to the end of September 2023 and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland for hosting the database.

Without this support, the Fracture Liaison Service Database and project manager role would not have been established. As national clinical leads we are delighted that the HSE recognises the necessity of this service in agreeing to continue their investment into FLS in Ireland long term.



KEY STATISTICS

Target population - aged **50 years and over**

Both men and women

Approximate number of Fragility fractures per year - **18,000-24,000**

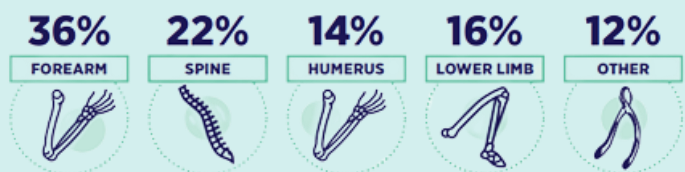
Number of hip fractures in 2021 - **3,701**

Economic cost of fractures in EU countries - **€56 billion per year**. Only €37.7M of this is spent on fracture prevention. (Kanis 2021)

In Ireland the cost of osteoporotic fractures ~2% of the healthcare spend: **€464 million in 2019**.

Ref: <https://www.osteoporosis.foundation/scope-2021>

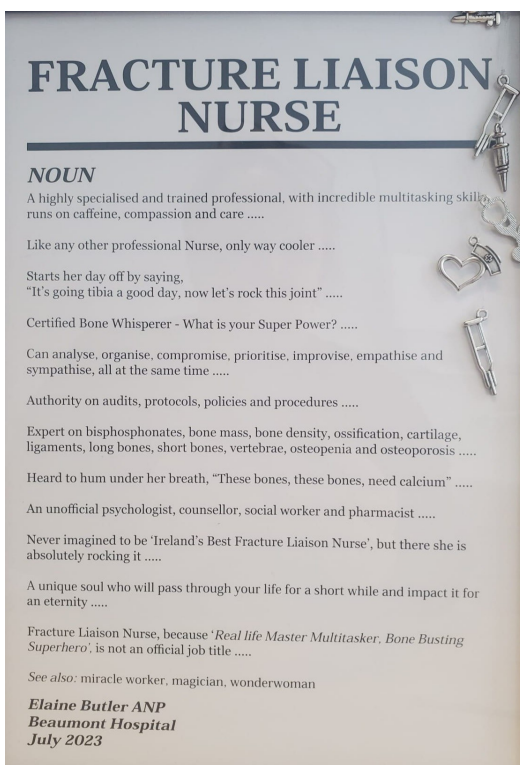
Common Sites for Fractures



5Is of the Fragility Fracture Service

- ⇒ **Identify**
- ⇒ **Investigate**
- ⇒ **Inform**
- ⇒ **Intervene**
- ⇒ **Improve service delivery with good quality data**

(adapted from the ROS, UK)



Poem adapted by Mary O'Reilly, submitted by Elaine Butler ANP, Beaumont Hospital. Photo above - Elaine Butler FLS RANP.

Fracture Liaison Services in Ireland

Hospitals that have a Fracture Liaison Service and are participating in collecting data and uploading to the FLS-Database:

- ◆ Beaumont Hospital
- ◆ Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown
- ◆ Cork University Hospital
- ◆ Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda
- ◆ Letterkenny University Hospital
- ◆ Mater Misericordiae University Hospital
- ◆ Sligo University Hospital
- ◆ St James's Hospital
- ◆ St Vincent's University Hospital
- ◆ Tallaght University Hospital
- ◆ University Hospital Galway

In the past two years, **€1.5M recurring funding** has been secured for FLS in Ireland and we hope to see a continued roll out to all sites nationally, towards ensuring high quality, effective secondary prevention of fractures in Ireland.

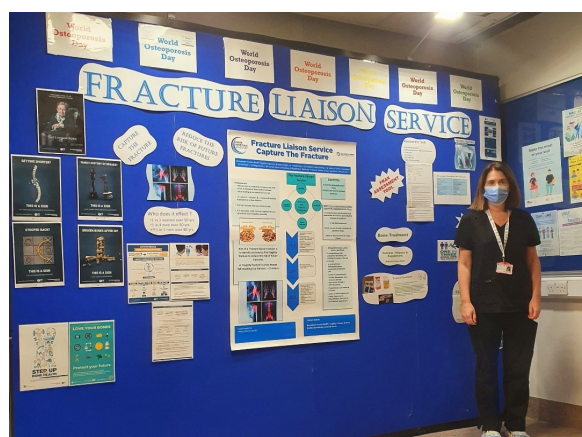
Outlined below is the most recent allocation of resources that has been secured through the HSE's Modernised Care Pathways.

ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

Hospital	June 2022	May 2023
BEAUMONT HOSPITAL	1 CANP	1 CLERICAL GRADE IV
OUR LADY OF LOURDES HOSPITAL, DROGHEDA		1 ANP
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL WATERFORD		1 ANP 1 CLERICAL GRADE IV
SLIGO UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL	1 CANP	
ST. JAMES'S HOSPITAL	1 CANP	
ST. VINCENTS UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL	1 CANP	1 ANP 1 CLERICAL GRADE IV
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GALWAY	1 CANP	1 CLERICAL GRADE IV
TALLAGHT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL	1 CANP	
MATER HOSPITAL	1 CANP	
CORK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL		2 ANP
CONNOLLY HOSPITAL BLANCHARDSTOWN	1 CANP	



L-R, cANP Leena Rodrigues and Directorate Nurse Manager Joan Killeen, St Vincent's Hospital. World Osteoporosis Day stand which provided information on bone health and fracture Liaison service to hospital staff and patients. **Leena would like to thank Joan for being her mentor and supporting her in her role.**



World Osteoporosis Day, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda with Bernadette Conlon RANP FLS (Fragility Fracture & Bone Health).

Save the Date

Launch of the 2nd National Fracture Liaison Services Database Report

Tuesday, 26th September
2 - 4 pm
Royal College of Surgeons

We hope to see you there!

Mr Aaron Glynn & Professor Frances Dockery



QUICK LINKS

[Age Friendly Ireland](#)

[Capture the Fracture](#)

[Fracture Liaison Service Ireland](#)

[Global Coalition on Ageing](#)

[Irish Osteoporosis Society](#)

[International Osteoporosis Foundation](#)

[Irish DXA Society](#)

[UK FLSDB](#)

[Know Your Bones](#)

[Royal Osteoporosis Society](#)

*if you know of any other relevant websites, please email us.



Left to right: St James's Hospital - Avril Quirke (Radiographer) Niamh Mulhall (DXA lead radiographer).



We would like to acknowledge and thank Ms Sheila Harkin who submitted a story about her experience using the Fracture Liaison Service.

You can read Sheila's story in the report which is being launched on the **26th of September** in the Royal College of Surgeons, St Stephen's Green.

Website: www.rcsi.com/fls

Email: fls@rcsi.com



@FLS_Ireland