

METHODOLOGY

The National Fracture Liaison Service Steering Group when established in 2018 identified the urgency of establishing an FLS database and completing a facilities audit.

The facilities audit completed in 2019 found that 9 out of 16 hospitals in Ireland that manage trauma, have some semblance of a FLS in place. None are capturing and treating the full range or numbers of non-hip fragility fractures that are occurring. The main reason cited in all of them was insufficient resourcing (Dockery, 2022).

The patient-level audit commenced data collection in 2022. As hip fractures in Ireland are already captured on the Irish Hip Fracture Database (IHFD), this audit focused only on non-hip fractures.

Inclusion Criteria

Analysis is based on FLS-DB records as captured on the Crown Informatics software. It includes:

- (i) Patients presenting to participating hospitals between 1 January 2021 and 31st December 2021
- (ii) Diagnosed with a non-hip fragility fracture
- (iii) Aged 50 years and over



Exclusion Criteria

- (i) Aged 49 years or under
- (ii) Pathological (fractures due to known cancer in the affected bone)
- (iii) Fractures resulting from high impact trauma/force
- (iv) Hip/neck of femur fractures
- (v) Fractures of facial bones, fingers, toes and ribs



Data Collection

The data is collected in the local hospitals by FLS practitioners who enter the data from patient's healthcare records. A customised data collection template has been designed for this purpose (Table 2.1) and it, outlines the options for hospitals to contribute their data to the national database.



Data Entry Method	Detail
1. Manual Data Entry	Hospital practitioner completes proforma and enters this data directly into the FLS Database.
2. Excel Upload	Practitioner enters data into a locally held excel/access database, converts this to a csv file and uploads monthly to the online FLS database
3. Existing Hospital System	Hospitals local IT system exports an extract of data matching the FLS dataset and uploads as a csv file to the online FLS database