Introduction to major trauma
Major trauma describes multiple, serious injuries that could result in significant physical harm or loss of life. This includes serious head, chest, organ and bone injuries.

People who suffer serious injury need high quality specialist care for the best chances of survival and recovery.

For very seriously injured patients, getting specialist treatment at a major trauma centre has a greater impact on their medical outcomes than the journey time to hospital.

Major trauma centres save lives and reduce long-term complications by giving patients urgent access to specialist trauma teams, dedicated theatres and state-of-the-art equipment for immediate treatment, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Major trauma in north west London
The north west London major trauma centre is based at St Mary’s Hospital. The centre is one London’s four major trauma centres. The catchment population is around 3 million people, although this is significantly higher if you include commuters. Ambulance crews responding major trauma cases make assessments on the scene and, if safe to do so, take patients directly to St Mary’s Hospital major trauma centre, rather than the nearest emergency service.

Some patients will first be stabilised in a local trauma unit before being transferred for specialist trauma treatment.

There are an estimated 1,600 major trauma patients each year across London, and many less serious trauma patients who benefit from major trauma services. Our services at St Mary’s Hospital are one of the busiest in London.

North west London major trauma network
The north west London major trauma network is made up of St Mary’s as the major trauma centre and six trauma units:

- Northwick Park / Central Middlesex
- Hillingdon
- Watford
- Ealing
- West Middlesex
- Chelsea and Westminster Hospitals.

Once urgent treatment is complete, it is very important that patients transfer to their local hospital, to allow new patients to receive the urgent care they need.

We work as a team so once you are safe to travel and the doctors are happy for you to go back to your local hospital, this will be arranged by the team.

Major trauma patient journey
Patient journeys differ depending on individual patient care needs. Some patients are able to go home after visiting the major trauma centre.
However, some need to go back to their local hospitals for further medical or therapy treatment, or whilst awaiting a rehabilitation bed at a specialist centre.

Ongoing assessments may be planned and may change over time. This will always be discussed with you and your family.

Follow up appointments will also be discussed with you prior to transfer or discharge.

Contact Numbers
Main switchboard: 020 3312 6666
Major trauma ward 020 3312 2383
Major trauma ward manager
Joanne Lockwood 020 3312 2380
Therapy team 020 3312 2353
www.imperial.nhs.uk/traumaservices

Visiting hours: 15.00 - 19.30pm

How do I make a comment about my visit?
If you have any comments, suggestions or concerns about your visit, please contact the ward manager or nurse in charge on 020 3312 2383 or contact the patient advice and liaison service (PALS) on 020 3313 0088, you can also email: pals@imperial.nhs.uk.