

1. Introduction and Who Guideline Applies to

This guideline is aimed at **all health care professionals** who are faced with managing **Hand Trauma**.

Hand is defined as

- *Soft Tissue* below the elbow
- *Bone* distal to the carpometacarpal (CMC) joints.

2. Guideline Standards and Procedures

In all Trauma Cases perform an assessment as per the ATLS protocols with investigations dictated by the nature of the injury.

All wounds should be cleaned & closed (by A&E) with subsequent dressing and appropriate splints applied.

Criteria For Referrals

- Non-Urgent Hand Fractures
- Ulnar Collateral Ligament Injuries requiring surgery

Note: We don't want to see *Soft Tissue, Digital Nerve, Tendon Injuries*; these can be booked directly onto a Hand Theatre List via the Trauma Coordinator. They should also be discussed with the consultant on call at the morning trauma meeting.

UHL Referrals Guidelines:

- Refer to Orthopaedic on call- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday
- Refer to Plastics on call- Friday, Saturday, Sunday
- Plastics take replants and burns all week.
- If there significant soft tissue loss, please review the patient and then discuss with Plastics.
- Utilise '*The Box*' for Hand Fracture Clinic Referrals
- Hand Fracture Clinic Referrals via '*The Box*'

Kettering & Northampton Referral Guidelines:

- *Kettering* has no hand service but are expected to treat minor injuries ie nail beds
- *Northampton* has a 'working hours' Plastic hand service. They will see all soft tissue injuries (nerves/tendons/nail beds) in their week day trauma clinics, including children. No clinics on Bank Holidays
- Referrals should follow the same protocol as above.
- Soft Tissue Registrars to see in daylight hours unless urgent. Wounds cleaned and closed in Kettering/Northampton. If appropriate listed on a hand list.
- Non-Urgent Fractures Referrals via '*The Box*'
- Urgent cases need a Registrar review (daylight hours if appropriate)

Operating Days

There are no joint Plastics & Orthopaedic Lists (at present), however, there are five hand lists each week:

- Plastics: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
- Orthopaedics: Thursday, Friday

3. Training

No training provided. Refer to guidance as above.

Please discuss any issues with **us** if there is a problem.

4. Monitoring Compliance

What will be measured to monitor compliance	How will compliance be monitored	Monitoring Lead	Frequency	Reporting arrangements
Delays To Referrals & Review	No Delays In Referrals or Review	Mr Aamer Ullah	3 Months	Formal Report every 3 Months

5. Supporting References

NONE

6. Key Words

Hand, Arm, Upper Limb, Trauma, Fracture, Injury, Services, Referral

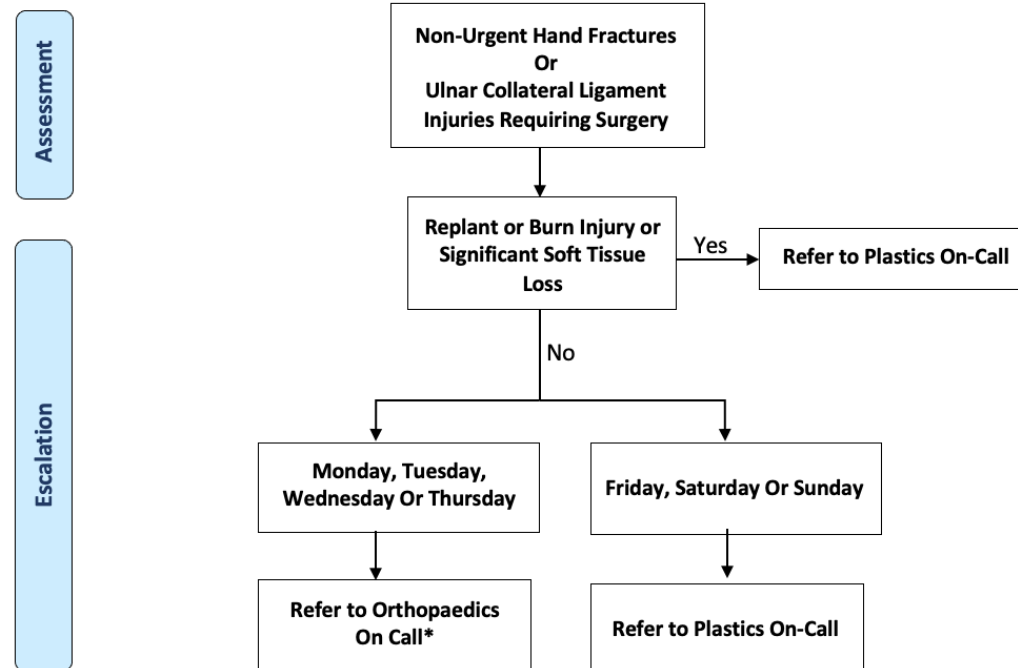
CONTACT AND REVIEW DETAILS	
Guideline Lead: Mr Alwyn Abraham Head of Service: Trauma & Orthopaedics UHL Written By: Dr Geeth Silva	Executive Lead
Details of Changes made during review: Awaiting Review	

Criteria For Referrals

Non-Urgent Hand Fractures Ulnar Collateral Ligament Injuries Requiring Surgery

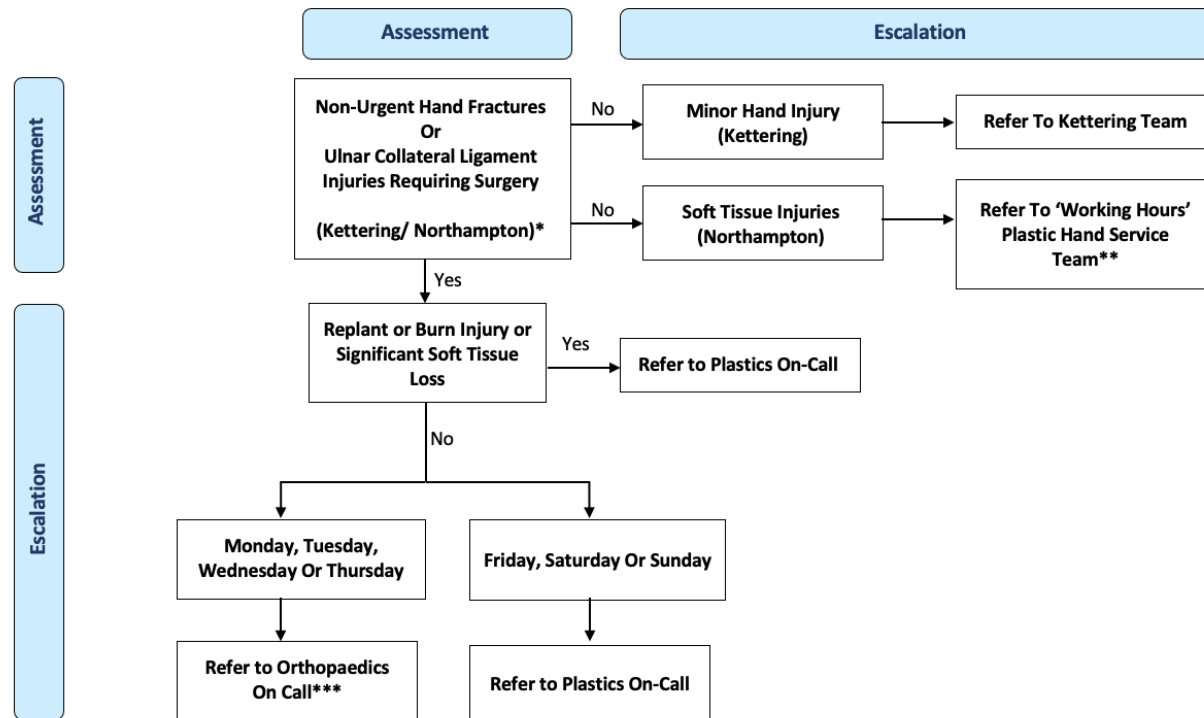
NOT Soft Tissue, Digital Nerve, Tendon Injuries -Book these directly onto a Hand Theatre List via the Trauma Coordinator.

UHL Referrals



*Hand Fracture Clinic Referrals via 'The Box'

Kettering/ Northampton Referrals



*Soft Tissue Registrars to see in daylight hours unless urgent. Wounds cleaned and closed in Kettering/Northampton. If appropriate listed on a hand list. Urgent cases need a Registrar review (daylight hours if appropriate).

** Patients will be seen all in their weekday trauma clinics (including children)

***Non-Urgent Fractures Referrals via 'The Box'

Five Hand Lists Each Week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Plastics	Plastics	Plastics	Orthopaedics	Orthopaedics