



MSK and Polytrauma Fact Sheet

hcc HORWICH
COHEN
COGHLAN
SOLICITORS

MSK AND POLYTRAUMA INJURIES - INFORMATION SHEET

Musculoskeletal (MSK) injuries often occur following traumatic accidental injuries such as road traffic accidents and falls, and in severe cases the patient will be taken directly to a designated NHS Major Trauma Centre for stabilisation and treatment. Cases that include multiple traumatic injuries (i.e. affecting a number of different areas of the body) are sometimes referred to as “polytrauma”.

Traumatic MSK injuries usually involve damage to bones, muscles and other soft tissues, and in some serious cases the internal organs can be affected.

Patients who have been treated at a Major Trauma Centre as a result of serious MSK injuries should try to maximise and accelerate their recovery by following a full course of rehabilitation and treatment in accordance with the NHS “Rehabilitation Prescription”. This document should be provided to all Major Trauma patients prior to discharge from hospital, but we know from experience that the NHS usually struggle to deliver the full course of recommended treatment thereafter. This could be as a result of excessive waiting lists, and/or the simple absence of NHS services local to the discharged patient.

The Major Trauma and Serious Injury team at Horwich Cohen Coghlan place specific emphasis on rehabilitation pathways at the earliest possible opportunity, and from the outset will work to plan ahead and seek to achieve maximal delivery of the Rehabilitation Prescription following discharge.

Funding is of course an important issue in these cases, as delivering the full range of recommended treatment can be expensive. Our lawyers will do everything possible to ensure that your claim takes into account the cost of your treatment programme for the rest of your life, not just the short term.

We will also work to ensure that you can return to work wherever possible, and as soon as is reasonably practicable. We understand how important work is to many people, and our Major Trauma lawyers will employ “vocational rehab” consultants where appropriate to assist you in this regard. This can be a great help to seriously injured people, and we find that clients who are able to follow a comprehensive treatment programme and return to work often make a better (and quicker) psychological recovery too.

If you have any queries in relation to a musculoskeletal or polytrauma injury, please contact one of our Major Trauma and Serious Injury solicitors on 0161 830 4600, or submit an enquiry form via our website.