

# National Hip Fracture Database 2025 annual report – Lay Summary

For 16 years the National Hip Fracture Database (NHFD) run by the Royal College of Physicians in London has been checking how hospitals in England, Wales and Northern Ireland look after over-60-year-old people who break their hip.

A broken hip or "hip fracture" is the most common serious injury affecting frail and older people and the most common reason for them to need emergency anaesthesia and surgery. As a result, one in 30 of all hospital beds is being used by someone recovering from this injury. Looking after them costs around £2 billion each year.

The COVID-19 pandemic left some people less fit and at greater risk of falling after months indoors and put a strain on health and social services. As a result, there has been an increase in the number having hip fractures — rising from 67,673 in 2019 to 71,885 in 2024. This increased number of people are also waiting longer for surgery. The average wait has risen from 34 hours in 2019 to 39 hours in 2024.

In addition, this year's report highlighted other areas where the NHFD will be helping local teams to improve the poor practice we have identified in some hospitals:

**Too long in casualty:** Across the country patients waited an average of 15 hours in casualty before being moved to the care of staff in a suitable orthopaedic ward.

**Too many patients not receiving surgery:** A few hospitals are being asked why over one in ten of their patients did not receive surgery.

**Not enough physiotherapy:** Patients need physiotherapy to get them back on their feet. But many hospitals only provide this on weekdays, so some patients stay in the hospital longer than needed.

**Poor attention to fracture prevention:** A quarter of people who break their hip will break another bone in the future. Most are therefore now given bone strengthening medication before leaving hospital, with 10,000 people receiving this in 2024. But 10 hospitals sent over three-quarters of patients home without effective bone protection.

The NHFD is working to support the teams in these hospitals to provide prompt safe, and better care for everyone. You can read the NHFD's full report and see details of the care in your own hospital by visiting the NHFD website: [www.nhfd.co.uk](http://www.nhfd.co.uk).