

## Paediatric forearm fractures - advice on BOAST pathway

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RCPCH hosts the Intercollegiate Committee on Standards for Children and Young People in Emergency Care Settings. We publish these standards as part of our Facing the Future portfolio, and it is through this lens that we have considered and reflected on [the British Orthopaedic Association Standards \(BOAST\) for the Early Management of Paediatric Forearm Fracture](#) (May 2021).

RCPCH appreciates the benefits that this BOAST pathway can offer in improving patient flow, avoiding hospital admission and the opportunity for collaborative working between local emergency medicine and orthopaedic services. In particular, we note the first standard which states:

*All units managing children's forearm fractures should have protocols to enable early, definitive manipulation and casting without necessitating admission. This protocol should specifically address processes around procedural analgesia and sedation as well as the timely response to manipulation.*

The pathway, and the benefits it can provide to children and young people, and the services treating them, depends on developing and agreeing an appropriate local protocol under standard 1.

Local protocols around procedural analgesia and sedation to manage the care of an injured child are essential to the success of this pathway. In our view these protocols can only be put in place after the identification and provision of adequate space, staff and equipment, as described in the Facing the Future standards.

Our advice to members is to consider the relevant Facing the Future standards as they discuss and agree local protocols under this pathway.

### References

- [Facing the future standards for children and young people in emergency care settings](#)
- [British Orthopaedic Association standard for Early Management of Paediatric Forearm Fracture](#)