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## Overview

This standard covers the surgical re-alignment of fractured bones, which could be either open or closed compound fractures. It includes determining and applying the appropriate technique for reducing the joint in a way that recognises and minimises any potential or actual complications, discomfort, pain or trauma for the individual during and after the intervention. The chosen technique must take account of the location of the fracture, the severity of the angulation or deformity of the joint, caused by or contributing to the bone fracture, the potential for healing, any other injuries the individual has, and the age and activity level of the individual.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 confirm the individuals' identity and ensure that they have given their informed consent for the intervention to be delivered
- P2 use investigation results to confirm details of the affected bone, the re-alignment required and other aspects of intervention that will be required
- P3 apply standard precautions for infection control and other relevant health and safety measures, and wear personal protective clothing and additional protective equipment as appropriate
- P4 ensure that the appropriate pharmaceutical intervention of the required dilution and dose is given and maintained, in line with legislation, protocols and guidelines
- P5 ensure that the individual is positioned appropriately for the intervention, in a way that optimises their safety and comfort, in line with relevant legislation, protocols and guidelines
- P6 gain access to the intervention site in a timely, safe and appropriate manner for the bone(s) being re-aligned
- P7 determine the appropriate choice and sequencing of actions to take to successfully complete the intervention, taking into account:
  - P7.1 the location of the fracture
  - P7.2 the severity of angulation or deformity
  - P7.3 the potential for healing
  - P7.4 other injuries
  - P7.5 age and activity level of the individual
- P8 re-align the bone safely and accurately using appropriate techniques and reparative materials:
  - P8.1 in a way that will minimise any complications, discomfort, pain or trauma for the individual during and after the intervention
  - P8.2 in a way that recognises the potential for complications and minimises the possibility of these occurring
  - P8.3 in accordance with good practice, legislation, protocols and guidelines
- P9 ensure that optimal viability and visibility in and around the site is appropriately maintained whilst the reduction is being performed
- P10 complete the intervention to the point where the site can be safely prepared for closure, ensuring that:
  - P10.1 all appropriate connective tissues in and/or surrounding the site are appropriately restored or connected
  - P10.2 the appropriate closure of the site can be safely and appropriately conducted
  - P10.3 sterile post intervention materials and appropriate musculo-skeletal support can be correctly applied and attached following the completion of the intervention

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- P11 ensure that the appropriate information pertaining to the delivery of the intervention is used to inform the formulation of a post-intervention rehabilitation plan
- P12 respect the privacy, dignity and confidentiality of the individual throughout the intervention
- P13 maintain timely, accurate, complete and legible records in accordance with legislation, protocols, policies and guidelines and work at all times within appropriate patient and information confidentiality legislation, guidelines and protocols
- P14 work within your scope of responsibility and accountability, referring to others where appropriate and/or necessary

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 the current European, national and local legislation, policies, protocols and guidelines which affect your work practice
- K2 your responsibilities under the current European, national and local legislation, policies, protocols and guidelines with respect to the re-alignment of bones
- K3 why it is necessary to obtain informed consent prior to working with an individual and the methods used to achieve this where the individual is not able to give their consent directly (e.g. because they are comatose or have communication differences)
- K4 the legislation, policies and guidance which clarify your scope of practice and the relationship between yourself and other members of staff in terms of delegation and supervision
- K5 legislation, policies and guidance relating to the moving and positioning of individuals and the impact they have upon your work
- K6 why it is important to get positive confirmation of the individual's identity before commencing an intervention and effective methods of obtaining positive identification
- K7 the principles of asepsis, maintenance of the sterile field and the potential consequence of poor practice
- K8 the importance of following standard precautions and the protective clothing which may be worn for the individual's and your protection
- K9 the potential consequences of poor practice in relation to the application of standard precautions
- K10 your role and responsibilities, those of other health and care providers who maybe involved in the intervention, and the importance of working within your own scope of practice
- K11 the importance of checking that the individual has complied with any pre-intervention instructions and possible implications if instructions are not followed
- K12 the appropriate methods, procedures and techniques for dealing with skeletal fractures and realigning bones, in line with current guidance in this field of practice
- K13 the procedures, protocols and processes, relating to the selection and use of reparative materials in the re-alignment of bones
- K14 the methods, procedures and techniques for making incisions and dissections, wound closure, wound management
- K15 the resources and equipment necessary for the type of bone re-alignment being undertaken and how to use them
- K16 how to practise in such a way as to minimise complications and risk to individuals
- K17 the types of complications that might arise during the course of the

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- intervention, how to recognise them, and the responses that should be made to deal with them
- K18 the principles of pharmaceuticals (including anaesthesia) and how these relate to and impact on the realignment of joints
- K19 the detailed anatomy and general and system specific physiology and pathology, including joints, bones, muscles and tendons, neurovascular supply, bursae and relationships to local structures
- K20 the classification systems for fractures and dislocations
- K21 skeletal fractures, and related soft tissue injuries and disorders, and their application to the particular type of bone alignment being undertaken, in line with current guidance in your field of practice
- K22 fundamental principles for positioning an individual for an intervention with respect to all relevant general and clinical health and safety considerations
- K23 the importance of recording information about the re-alignment of the bone clearly, accurately and in a timely and systematic manner
- K24 the types of information that must be recorded in relation to the re-alignment of bones

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### Additional Information

#### External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments

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