

Did your trauma CT get reported within 60 minutes? A QIP in Basildon Hospital Trauma Unit

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DOI: 10.24911/SJEMed.12-2599

Objective: NICE guidelines on trauma management recommend that patients undergoing urgent 3D imaging for major trauma should receive a provisional written radiology report within 60 minutes of the scan. Basildon is a Trauma unit in the United Kingdom that manages multiple major trauma cases each month. This quality improvement project was carried out in the months of May to August 2024 to ascertain whether trauma CT reporting was complying with the NICE guidelines.

Results: We conducted a Quality improvement project to find out if trauma CTs are reported within 60 minutes. Data analysis showed they were being reported 12 minutes late – at 72 minutes. A trauma assessment form was introduced to bypass calling a radiologist to vet the scan. This led to efficiency in getting Trauma CT reported to 52 minutes, which was a marked improvement of 20 minutes. A questionnaire was also sent to the radiologists to find out common issues leading to delays in CT reporting. Analysis of the responses revealed that 75% felt trauma CT scans were being over-requested. As a result, a trauma assessment form was introduced, requiring that only a senior member of the emergency department could authorize a trauma series CT.

Conclusion: Timely diagnosis facilitates the early detection of life-threatening injuries, allows for prioritization of care, and enables prompt intervention – ultimately improving patient outcomes. The implementation of a structured assessment form and limiting CT authorization to senior clinicians significantly improved compliance with NICE reporting standards.

Keywords: Reporting of trauma CT within 60 minutes.