

Capture the Fracture: a Best Practice Framework and global campaign to break the fragility fracture cycle

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Abstract

Summary The International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) Capture the Fracture Campaign aims to support implementation of Fracture Liaison Services (FLS) throughout the world.

Introduction FLS have been shown to close the ubiquitous secondary fracture prevention care gap, ensuring that fragility fracture sufferers receive appropriate assessment and intervention to reduce future fracture risk.

Methods Capture the Fracture has developed internationally endorsed standards for best practice, will facilitate change at the national level to drive adoption of FLS and increase awareness of the challenges and opportunities presented by secondary fracture prevention to key stakeholders. The Best

Practice Framework (BPF) sets an international benchmark for FLS, which defines essential and aspirational elements of service delivery.

Results The BPF has been reviewed by leading experts from many countries and subject to beta-testing to ensure that it is internationally relevant and fit-for-purpose. The BPF will also serve as a measurement tool for IOF to award ‘Capture the Fracture Best Practice Recognition’ to celebrate successful FLS worldwide and drive service development in areas of unmet need. The Capture the Fracture website will provide a suite of resources related to FLS and secondary fracture prevention, which will be updated as new materials become available. A mentoring programme will enable those in the early stages of development of FLS to learn

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from colleagues elsewhere that have achieved Best Practice Recognition. A grant programme is in development to aid clinical systems which require financial assistance to establish FLS in their localities.

Conclusion Nearly half a billion people will reach retirement age during the next 20 years. IOF has developed Capture the Fracture because this is the single most important thing that can be done to directly improve patient care, of both women and men, and reduce the spiralling fracture-related care costs worldwide.

Keywords Capture the Fracture · Coordinator-based · FLS · Fracture Liaison Service · Fracture prevention · Fragility fracture

The International Osteoporosis Foundation Capture the Fracture Campaign

In 2012, the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) launched the Capture the Fracture Campaign [1, 2]. Capture the Fracture is intended to substantially reduce the incidence of secondary fractures throughout the world. This will be delivered by establishment of a new standard of care for fragility fracture sufferers, whereby health care providers always respond to the first fracture to prevent the second and subsequent fractures. The most effective way to achieve this goal is through implementation of coordinator-based, post-fracture models of care. Exemplar models have been referred to as ‘Fracture Liaison Services’ (United Kingdom [3–7], Europe [8, 9] and Australia [10–12]), ‘Osteoporosis Coordinator Programs’ (Canada [13, 14]) or ‘Care Manager Programs’ (USA [15, 16]). For the purposes of this position paper, they will be referred to as Fracture Liaison Services (FLS).

During the first 10 years of the twenty-first century—the first Bone and Joint Decade [17]—considerable progress was made in terms of establishment of exemplar FLS in many countries [1] and the beginning of inclusion of secondary fracture prevention into national health policies [18–26]. However, FLS are currently established in a very small proportion of facilities that receive fracture patients worldwide, and many governments are yet to create the political framework to support funding of new services. The goal of Capture the Fracture is to facilitate adoption of FLS globally. This will be achieved by recognising and sharing best practice with health care professionals and their organisations, national osteoporosis societies and the patients they represent, and policymakers and their governments. This position paper describes why Capture the Fracture is needed and precisely how the campaign will operate over the coming years. IOF believes this is the single most important thing that can be done to directly improve patient care, for women and men, and reduce spiralling fracture-related health care costs worldwide.

The need for a global campaign

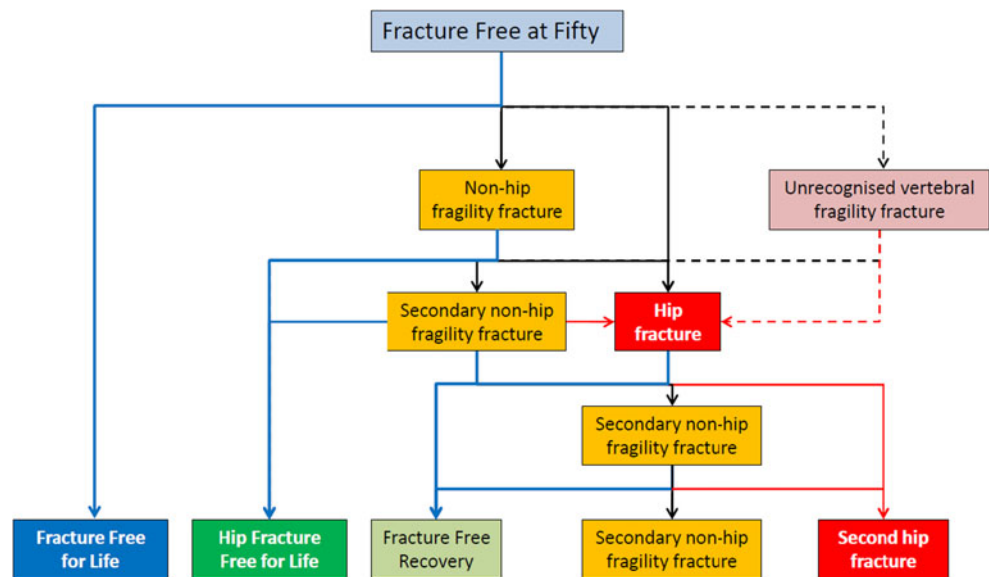
Half of women and a fifth of men will suffer a fragility fracture in their lifetime [23, 27–29]. In year 2000, there were an estimated 9 million new fragility fractures including 1.6 million at the hip, 1.7 million at the wrist, 0.7 million at the humerus and 1.4 million symptomatic vertebral fractures [30]. More recent studies suggest that 5.2 million fragility fractures occurred during 2010 in 12 industrialised countries in North America, Europe and the Pacific region [31] alone, and an additional 590,000 major osteoporotic fractures occurred in the Russian Federation [32]. Hip fracture rates are increasing rapidly in Beijing in China; between 2002 and 2006 rates in women rose by 58 % and by 49 % in men [33]. The costs associated with fragility fractures are currently enormous for Western populations and expected to dramatically increase in Asia, Latin America and the Middle East as these populations age:

- In 2005, the total direct cost of osteoporotic fractures in Europe was 32 billion EUR per year [34], which is projected to rise to 37 billion EUR by 2025 [35]
- In 2002, the combined cost of all osteoporotic fractures in the USA was 20 billion USD [36]
- In 2006, China spent 1.6 billion USD on hip fracture care, which is projected to rise to 12.5 billion USD by 2020 and 265 billion USD by 2050 [37]

A challenge on this scale can be both daunting and bewildering for those charged with developing a response, whether at the level of an individual institution or a national health care system. Fortunately, nature has provided us with an opportunity to systematically identify almost half of individuals who will break their hip in the future. Patients presenting with a fragility fracture today are twice as likely to suffer future fractures compared to peers that haven’t suffered a fracture [38, 39]. Crucially, from the obverse view, amongst individuals presenting with a hip fracture, almost half have previously broken another bone [40–43]. A broad spectrum of effective agents are available to prevent future fractures amongst those presenting with new fractures, and can be administered as daily [44–46], weekly [47, 48] or monthly tablets [49, 50], or as daily [51, 52], quarterly [53], six-monthly [54] or annual injections [55]. Thus, a clear opportunity presents to disrupt the fragility fracture cycle illustrated in Fig. 1, by consistently targeting fracture risk assessment, and treatment where appropriate, to fragility fracture sufferers [56].

Regrettably, the majority of health care systems around the world are currently failing to respond to the first fracture to prevent the second. The ubiquitous nature of the secondary fracture prevention care gap is evident from the national

Fig. 1 The fragility fracture cycle (reproduced with permission of the Department of Health in England [56])



audits summarised in Table 1, for both women and men [57–66]. Additionally, a substantial number of regional and local audits have been summarised in the 2012 IOF World Osteoporosis Day Report, which mirror the findings of the national audits [1]. The secondary fracture prevention care gap is persistent. A recent prospective observational study of >60,000 women aged ≥ 55 years, recruited from 723 primary physician practices in 10 countries, reported that less than 20 % of women with new fractures received osteoporosis treatment [67]. A province-wide study in Manitoba, Canada has revealed that post-fracture diagnosis and treatment rates have not substantially changed between 1996/1997 and 2007/2008, despite increased awareness of osteoporosis care gaps during the intervening decade [68].

The reason that the care gap exists, and persists, is multifactorial in nature. A systematic review from Elliot-Gibson and colleagues in 2004 identified the following issues [69]:

- Cost concerns relating to diagnosis and treatment
- Time required for diagnosis and case finding
- Concerns relating to polypharmacy
- Lack of clarity regarding where clinical responsibility resides

The issue regarding where clinical responsibility resides resonates with health care professionals throughout the world. Harrington's metaphorical depiction captures the essence of the problem [70]:

'Osteoporosis care of fracture patients has been characterised as the Bermuda Triangle made up of orthopaedists, primary care physicians and osteoporosis experts into which the fracture patient disappears'

Surveys have shown that in the absence of a robust care pathway for fragility fracture patients, a 'Catch-22' scenario prevails [71]. Orthopaedic surgeons rely on primary care doctors to manage osteoporosis; primary care doctors routinely only do so if so advised by the orthopaedic surgeon; and osteoporosis experts—usually endocrinologists or rheumatologists—have no cause to interact with the patient during the fracture episode. The proven solution to close the secondary fracture prevention care gap is to eliminate this confusion by establishing a Fracture Liaison Service (FLS).

Systematic literature review of programs designed to deliver secondary preventive care reported that two thirds of services employ a dedicated coordinator to act as the link between the patient, the orthopaedic team, the osteoporosis and falls prevention services, and the primary care physician [72]. Successful and sustainable FLS report that clearly defining the scope of the service from the outset is essential. Some FLS began by focusing initially on hip fracture patients, and subsequently expanded the scope of the service until all fracture patients presenting to their institution were assessed as illustrated in Fig. 2.

The core objectives of an FLS are:

1. Inclusive case finding
2. Evidence-based assessment—stratify risk, identify secondary causes of osteoporosis, tailor therapy
3. Initiate treatment in accordance with relevant guidelines
4. Improve long-term adherence with therapy

The operational characteristics of a comprehensive FLS have been described as follows [1]. The FLS will ensure fracture risk assessment, and treatment where appropriate, is delivered to all patients presenting with fragility fractures in the particular locality or institution. The service will be comprised

Table 1 National audits of secondary fracture prevention

Country	No. of fracture patients	Study population	Fracture risk assessment done or risk factors identified (%)	Treated for osteoporosis (%)	Reference
Australia	1,829	Minimal-trauma fracture presentations to Emergency Departments	<13 % had risk factors identified –10 % ‘appropriately investigated’	–12 % received calcium –12 % received vitamin D –8 % received a bisphosphonate	Teede et al. [57]
Canada	441	Men participating in the Canadian Multicentre Osteoporosis Study (CaMos) with a prevalent clinical fracture at baseline	–At baseline, 2.3 % reported a diagnosis of osteoporosis –At year 5, 10.3 % (39/379) with a clinical fragility fracture (incident or prevalent) reported a diagnosis of osteoporosis	–At baseline, <1 % were taking a bisphosphonate –At year 5, the treatment rate for any fragility fracture was 10 % (36/379)	Papaioannou et al. [58]
Germany	1,201	Patients admitted to hospital with an isolated distal radius fracture	62 % of women and 50 % of men had evidence of osteoporosis	7 % were prescribed osteoporosis-specific medication	Smektala et al. [59]
Italy	2,191	Ambulatory patients with a previous osteoporotic hip fracture attending orthopaedic clinics	No data	<20 % of patients had taken an antiresorptive drug before their hip fracture <50 % took any kind of treatment for osteoporosis 1.4 years after initial interview	Carnevale et al. [60]
Japan	2,328	Females suffering their first hip fracture	BMD was measured before or during hospitalisation for 16 % of patients	–19 % of patients received osteoporosis treatment in the year following fracture –36 % of patients receiving osteoporosis treatment during hospitalisation continued at 1 year	Hagino et al. [61]
Korea	151,065	Nationwide cohort of females with hip, spine and wrist fractures	BMD was measured for 23 % with hip fracture, 29 % with spine fracture and 9 % with wrist fracture	≥1 approved osteoporosis treatment was received by 22 % with hip fracture, 30 % with spine fracture and 8 % with wrist fracture	Gong et al. [62]
Netherlands	1,654	Patients hospitalised for a fracture of the hip, spine, wrist or other fractures	For a sample of 208 out of 1,654 cases, GP case records were available. Of these patients, 5 % had a diagnosis of osteoporosis in the GP records	15 % of patients received osteoporosis treatment within 1 year after discharge from hospital	Panneman et al. [63]
Switzerland	3,667	Patients presenting with a fragility fracture to hospital emergency wards	BMD was measured for 31 % of patients	24 % of women and 14 % of men were treated with a bone active drug, generally a bisphosphonate with or without calcium and/or vitamin D	Suhm et al. [64]
UK	9,567	Patients who presented with a hip or non-hip fragility fracture	32 % of non-hip fracture and 67 % of hip fracture patients had a clinical assessment for osteoporosis and/or fracture risk	33 % of non-hip fracture and 60 % of hip fracture patients received appropriate management for bone health	Royal College of Physicians [65]
USA	51,346	Patients hospitalised for osteoporotic hip fracture	No data	7 % received an anti-resorptive or bone-forming medication	Jennings et al. [66]

of a dedicated case worker, often a clinical nurse specialist, who works to preagreed protocols to case-find and assess fracture patients. The FLS can be based in secondary or primary care and requires support from a medically qualified practitioner, be they a hospital doctor with expertise in fragility fracture prevention or a primary care physician with a specialist interest. The structure of a hospital-based FLS in the UK was presented in a national consensus guideline on fragility fracture care as shown in Fig. 3 [73].

FLS have been established in a growing number of countries including Australia [11, 12, 74–76], Canada [13, 77–79], Ireland [80], the Netherlands [81–84], Singapore [26], Spain [85], Sweden [86, 87], Switzerland [88], the United Kingdom [3–7] and the USA [89–92]. FLS have been reported to be cost-effective by investigators in Australia [10], Canada [14, 93], the United Kingdom [94] and the USA [15], and by the Department of Health in England [95]. In 2011, the IOF published a position paper

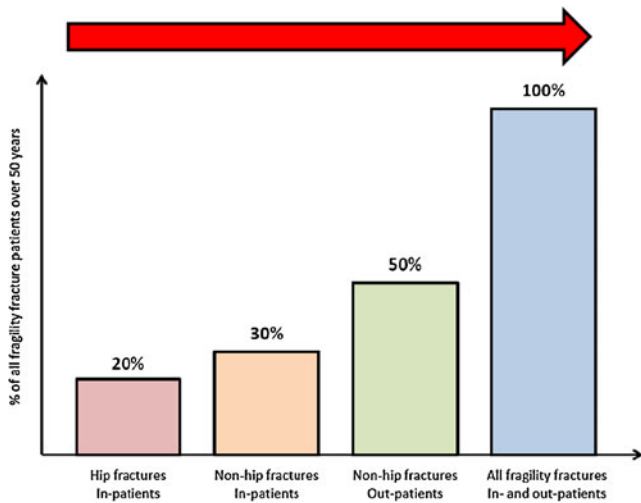


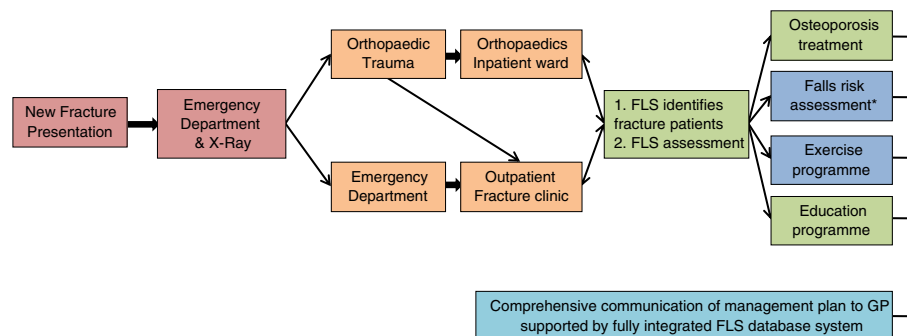
Fig. 2 Defining the scope of an FLS and expansion of fracture population assessed [1] n.b. The ultimate goal of an FLS is to capture 100 % of fragility fracture sufferers. This figure recognises that development of FLS may be incremental

on coordinator-based systems for secondary fracture prevention [96] which was followed in 2012 by the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research Secondary Prevention Task Force Report [97]. These major international initiatives underscore the degree of consensus shared by professionals throughout the world on the need for FLS to be adopted and adapted for implementation in all countries. FLS serves as an exemplar in relation to the Health Care Quality Initiative of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) [98]. The IOM defines quality as:

‘The degree to which health services for individuals and populations increase the likelihood of desired health outcomes and are consistent with current professional knowledge’

We know that secondary fracture prevention is clinically and cost-effective, but does not routinely happen. FLS closes the disparity between current knowledge and current practice.

Fig. 3 The operational structure of a hospital-based Fracture Liaison Service [73] Asterisk (*) older patients, where appropriate, are identified and referred for falls assessment



An important component of the Capture the Fracture Campaign will be to establish global reference standards for FLS. Several systematic reviews have highlighted that a range of service models have been designed to close the secondary fracture prevention care gap, with varying degrees of success [72, 99, 100]. Having clarity on precisely what constitutes best practice will provide a mechanism for FLS in different localities and countries to learn from one another. The Capture the Fracture ‘Best Practice Framework’ described later in this position paper aims to provide a mechanism to facilitate this goal.

How Capture the Fracture works

Background

The Capture the Fracture Campaign was launched at the IOF European Congress on Osteoporosis and Osteoarthritis in Bordeaux, France in March 2012. Healthcare professionals that have played a leading role in establishing FLS and representatives from national patient societies shared their efforts to embed FLS in national policy in their countries. In October 2012, the IOF World Osteoporosis Day report was devoted to Capture the Fracture [1] and disseminated at events organised by national societies throughout the world [101]. This position paper presents the aims and structure of the Capture the Fracture Campaign. A Steering Committee comprised of the authorship group of this position paper has led development of the campaign and will provide ongoing support to the implementation of the next steps.

Aims

The aims of Capture the Fracture are:

- Standards: To provide internationally endorsed standards for best practice in secondary fracture prevention. Specific components are:

- Best Practice Framework

* Older patients, where appropriate, are identified and referred for falls assessment

- Best Practice Recognition
- Showcase of best practices
- Change: Facilitation of change at the local and national level will be achieved by:
 - Mentoring programmes
 - Implementation guides and toolkits
 - Grant programme for developing systems
- Awareness: Knowledge of the challenges and opportunities presented by secondary fracture prevention will be raised globally by:
 - An ongoing communications plan
 - Anthology of literature, worldwide surveys and audits
 - International coalition of partners and endorsers

Internationally endorsed standards

The centrepiece of the Capture the Fracture Campaign is the Best Practice Framework (BPF), provided as [Appendix](#). The BPF is comprised of 13 standards which set an international benchmark for Fracture Liaison Services. Each standard has three levels of achievement: Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3. The BPF:

1. Defines the *essential* and *aspirational* building blocks that are necessary to implement a successful FLS, and
2. Serves as the measurement tool for IOF to award ‘Capture the Fracture Best Practice Recognition’ in celebration of successful FLS worldwide

Establishing standards for health care delivery systems that have global relevance is very difficult. However, the ‘parallel evolution’ of FLS with broadly similar structure and function in many countries of the world, as described previously, suggested that a meaningful platform for benchmarking could be created. The structure of healthcare systems varies considerably throughout the world, so the context within which FLS have, and will be established in different countries may be markedly different. Accordingly, the BPF has been developed with cognisance that the scope of an FLS—and the limits of its function and effectiveness—may be constrained by the nature of health care infrastructure in the country of origin. To this end, clinical innovators who choose to submit their FLS for benchmarking by the BPF are encouraged to:

- Use existing procedures as they correspond to their health care system: Existing, individual systems and

procedures that are currently in place can be used to measure performance against the standards.

- Meaning of the term ‘institution’: Throughout the BPF, the word ‘institution’ is used which is intended to be a generic term for: the inpatient and/or outpatient facilities, and/or health care systems for which the FLS was established to serve.
- Limit applications to ‘systems’ of care: The BPF is intended for larger ‘systems’ of care, within the larger health care setting, which consist of multidisciplinary providers and deal with a significant volume of fracture patients.
- Recognise that the BPF is both achievable and ambitious: Some of the BPF standards address essential aspects of an FLS, while others are aspirational. A weight has been assigned to each standard based on how important the standard is in relation to an FLS delivering best practice care. This:
 1. Enables recognition of systems who have achieved the most essential elements, while leaving room for improvement towards implementing the aspirational elements
 2. Allows systems to achieve a standard of care, Silver for example, with a range of levels of achievement across the 13 standards

Applications will be received through a web-based questionnaire, at www.capturethefracture.org, which gathers information about the FLS and its achievements as they correspond to the Best Practice Framework. IOF staff will process submissions which will be reviewed and validated by members of the Steering Committee to generate a summary profile. This will determine the level of recognition to be assigned to the FLS as Unclassified, Bronze, Silver or Gold across four key fragility fracture patient groups—hip fracture, other inpatient fractures, outpatient fracture, vertebral fracture—and organizational characteristics. Applicants achieving Capture the Fracture Recognition will be recognised by IOF in the following ways:

- Placement of the applicant’s FLS on the Capture the Fracture website’s interactive map, including the system name, location, link and programme showcase
- Awarded use of the IOF-approved, Capture the Fracture Best Practice Recognition logo for use on the applicant’s websites and materials

Facilitating change at the local and national level

The Capture the Fracture website—www.capturethefracture.org—provides links to resources related to FLS and secondary fracture prevention. These include FLS

implementation guides and national toolkits which have been developed for some countries. As new resources become available, the website will serve as a portal for sharing of materials to support healthcare professionals and national patient societies to establish FLS in their institutions and countries.

Further supporting the establishment of FLS, Capture the Fracture will organise a locality specific mentoring programme between sites that have achieved Best Practice Recognition and those systems that are in early stage development. An opportunity exists to create a global network to support sharing of the successes and challenges that will be faced in the process of implementing best practice. This network has the potential to contribute significantly to adoption of FLS throughout the world. During 2013, IOF intends to develop a grant programme to aid clinical systems around the world which require financial assistance to establish FLS.

Raising awareness

A substantial body of literature on secondary fracture prevention and FLS has developed over the last decade. A feature of the Capture the Fracture website is a Research Library which organises the world's literature into an accessible format. This includes sections on care gaps and case finding; assessment, treatment and adherence; and health economic analysis.

IOF has undertaken to establish an international coalition of partners and endorsers to progress implementation of FLS. At the national level, establishment of multi-sector coalitions has played an important role in achieving prioritisation of secondary fracture prevention and FLS in national policy and reimbursement systems [1]. The Capture the Fracture website provides a mechanism to share such experience between organisations and national societies in different countries. Increasing awareness that the secondary fracture prevention care gap has been closed by implementation of FLS, and that policy and reimbursement systems have been created to support establishment of new FLS, will catalyse broader adoption of the model.

A global call to action

During the next 20 years, 450 million people worldwide will celebrate their 65th birthday [102]. As a result, in the absence of systematic preventive intervention, the human and financial costs of fragility fractures will rise dramatically. Policymakers, professional organisations, patient societies, payers and the private sector must work together to ensure that every fracture that could

be prevented is prevented. Almost half of hip fracture patients suffer a previous fragility fracture before breaking their hip, creating an obvious opportunity for intervention. However, currently, a secondary fracture prevention care gap exists throughout the world. This care gap can and must be eliminated by implementation of Fracture Liaison Services. The Capture the Fracture Campaign provides all necessary evidence, international standards of care, practical resources and a network of innovators to support colleagues globally to close the secondary prevention care gap. We call upon those responsible for fracture patient care throughout the world to implement Fracture Liaison Services as a matter of urgency.

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Conflicts of interest None.

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Appendix. Capture the Fracture Best Practice Framework

The 13 Capture the Fracture Best Practice Standards are:

1. Patient Identification Standard
2. Patient Evaluation Standard
3. Post-fracture Assessment Timing Standard
4. Vertebral Fracture Standard
5. Assessment Guidelines Standard
6. Secondary Causes of Osteoporosis Standard
7. Falls Prevention Services Standard

8. Multifaceted health and lifestyle risk-factor Assessment Standard
9. Medication Initiation Standard
10. Medication Review Standard
11. Communication Strategy Standard
12. Long-term Management Standard
13. Database Standard

The BPF contains standards that are both *essential* and *aspirational*; therefore, a weight is assigned to each standard based on how essential the standard is to a successful FLS. Three levels of achievement against each standard attract

scores of 1, 2 or 3 (n.b. standard 12 is dichotomous). The weighting and scoring system is as follows:

The standards are weighted:	The scores within each standard are:
Essential=weight of 1	Level 1=1
Medium=weight of 2	Level 2=2
Aspirational=weight of 3	Level 3=3

The calculator is as follows (for each standard, multiply the weight by the Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3 achieved, and add the total):

Standard	Weight	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Achievement Level ENTER Level1/Level2/Level3 SCORE HERE	Standard Total (weight×level)
1 Patient Identification	1	x	1	2	3	0
2 Patient Evaluation	1	x	1	2	3	0
3 Post-fracture Assessment Timing	2	x	1	2	3	0
4 Vertebral Fracture	3	x	1	2	3	0
5 Assessment Guidelines	3	x	1	2	3	0
6 Secondary Causes of Osteoporosis	3	x	1	2	3	0
7 Falls Prevention Services	1	x	1	2	3	0
8 Multifaceted health and lifestyle risk-factor Assessment	3	x	1	2	3	0
9 Medication Initiation	1	x	1	2	3	0
10 Medication Review	2	x	1	2	3	0
11 Communication Strategy	2	x	1	2	3	0
12 Long-term Management	2	x	1		3	0
13 Database	1	x	1	2	3	0
TOTAL Achievement Level						0

It is important that the output of the framework tool is clear for health care professionals, patients and the public as it will permit meaningful comparisons both across sites nationally and globally as well as through the coming years as services evolve.

To this end, a level of recognition will be assigned to each centre as a summary profile from Unclassified through Bronze, Silver and/or Gold in up to four key fragility fracture patient groups—hip fractures, other in-patient fractures, outpatient fractures and vertebral fractures—and organizational characteristics. This will be achieved in a two-stage process.

Sites will independently complete a fracture service questionnaire and submit this to the IOF Capture the Fracture Committee of Scientific Advisors (IOF CTF CSA). The IOF CTF CSA would acknowledge receipt of the form and perform a draft grading from both administrative and clinical perspectives depending on the achievement of the IOF BPF standards within each domain. A summary profile for

each domain will be made as a series of star ratings (Unclassified, Bronze, Silver and Gold).

The draft summary profile will then be fed back to the site with a request for further information if there are areas of uncertainty. On receipt of the site's response, a suggested final summary profile will be presented to the IOF CTF CSA for approval. Importantly, should this process of recognition highlight areas for improving the fracture site questionnaire, additional recommendations will be presented to the IOF CFA CSA and, if approved, an updated version of the questionnaire will be hosted on the website for future sites to complete. Through this iterative clinically led process, the IOF BPF will remain responsive to changes in clinical practice globally as well as retain key attributes that permit meaningful comparisons in service excellence globally.

The details of the 13 standards are provided below with explanatory guidance:

1.	STANDARD	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Patient Identification	Fracture patients within the scope of the institution (inpatient and/or outpatient facility or health care system) are identified to enable delivery of secondary fracture prevention.	Clinical fracture patients are being identified but <i>no patient tracking system exists</i> to evaluate percentage of patients that are identified versus those that are not.	Clinical fracture patients are being identified and a <i>patient tracking system exists</i> to evaluate percentage of patients that are identified versus those that are not.	Clinical fracture patients are being identified and a <i>patient tracking system exists</i> to evaluate percentage of patients that are identified versus those that are not. The quality of data capture has been subject to <i>independent review</i> .
Guidance notes/rationale	This intention of this standard is to ascertain the ROUTE by which fracture patients are identified. The standard recognises that some institutions will manage just inpatients, some will manage just outpatients and others will manage both in- and outpatients. The Nomination Platform Questionnaire (NPQ) will identify which type of fracture patients are included within the scope of the institution.	The institution <i>does not</i> have a system to track <i>every</i> patient presenting to the institution with a fracture, so <i>cannot</i> accurately determine the proportion of all patients that are reached by the service.	The institution <i>does</i> have a system to track <i>every</i> patient presenting to the institution with a fracture, so <i>can</i> accurately determine the proportion of all patients that are reached by the service.	The institution <i>does</i> have a system to track <i>every</i> patient presenting to the institution with a fracture, <i>and</i> has data quality control assessment measures independent of the team that deliver post-fracture care e.g. an existing hospital-wide data quality assurance team or clinical coding quality team that is either internal or external to the hospital/system.
Footnote:	It is recognized that health care institutions/systems will have varying methods to define their 'fracture patient' group, whether it be by diagnostic codes (ICD, CIM10), patient age, fracture type etc., from which to enable secondary fracture prevention.			

2.	STANDARD	LEVEL 1	LEVEL	LEVEL 3
Patient Evaluation	Identified fracture patients within the scope of the institution are assessed for future fracture risk.	Of those patients identified, in whom progression to immediate treatment is not warranted, 50% are assessed for subsequent fracture risk.	Of those patients identified, in whom progression to immediate treatment is not warranted, 70% are assessed for subsequent fracture risk.	Of those patients identified, in whom progression to immediate treatment is not warranted, 90% or more are assessed for subsequent fracture risk.
Guidance notes/rationale	This standard is concerned with the number of patients being assessed for subsequent fracture risk. The intention of this standard is to ascertain what proportion of all patients presenting to the institution or system with a fracture are evaluated for future fracture risk. The standard recognises that some institutions will manage just inpatients, some will manage just outpatients and others will manage both in- and outpatients. Additionally, the standard recognises circumstances when the best practice is to bypass fracture evaluation and go straight to treatment protocols (e.g. for patients who are 80+).			
Footnote:	Evaluation on this standard will take into account the difficulties associated with assessing patients with dementia or impaired cognitive function.			

3.	STANDARD	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Post Fracture Assessment Timing	Post-fracture assessment for secondary fracture prevention is conducted in a timely fashion after fracture presentation.	Post-fracture assessment for secondary fracture prevention occurs within 12–16 weeks of clinical fracture presentation.	Post-fracture assessment for secondary fracture prevention occurs within 8–12 weeks of clinical fracture presentation.	Post-fracture assessment for secondary fracture prevention occurs within 8 weeks of clinical fracture presentation.
Guidance notes/rationale	This standard is concerned with the timing of when subsequent fracture risk assessment is done. This assessment can be performed by any qualified provider but must be tracked by the FLS coordinator and must contain appropriate post-fracture assessment elements such as bone density testing, risk assessment or other assessment procedures relevant to the patient. This is to ensure a formal fracture risk assessment has been done.	The proportion of patients which this standard applies to is defined by the 50%, 70% and 90% ranges required to achieve Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3, respectively, in Standard 2.	The proportion of patients which this standard applies to is defined by the 50%, 70% and 90% ranges required to achieve Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3, respectively, in Standard 2.	The proportion of patients which this standard applies to is defined by the 50%, 70% and 90% ranges required to achieve Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3, respectively, in Standard 2.
Footnote: Utilizing the health care institution/system's average timing protocols, applicants are encouraged to give as accurate a time-frame as possible for when the post-fracture assessment for secondary fracture prevention is conducted. It is noted, however, that conducting post-fracture assessment at a time greater than four months post-fracture is too late.				

4.	STANDARD	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Vertebral Fracture	Institution has a system whereby patients with previously unrecognised vertebral fractures are identified and undergo secondary fracture prevention evaluation.	Patients with clinical vertebral fractures undergo assessment and/or receive treatment for prevention of secondary fractures.	Patients with non-vertebral fractures routinely undergo assessment with lateral vertebral morphometry by DXA (or possibly by plain spine radiology) to assess for vertebral fractures.	Patients who are reported by the Institution's Radiologists to have vertebral fractures on plain X-rays, CT & MRI scans (whether these are serendipitous or not) are identified by the FLS in order that they undergo assessment for treatment for prevention of secondary fractures.
Guidance notes/rationale	The majority of vertebral fractures are unrecognised or undetected. The intention of this standard is to establish what systems the institution has put in place to identify vertebral fractures amongst patients presenting and/or admitted to the institution for any condition. Knowledge of vertebral fracture status in addition to BMD has been shown to significantly improve fracture risk prediction for secondary fractures.	Up to a quarter of patients presenting to an FLS with non-vertebral fractures were shown to have vertebral deformities by Vertebral Fracture Assessment technology. The standard is cognisant that for some fracture patients conducting vertebral fracture assessment may not be practical for change management e.g. amongst hip fracture patients.	For those patients referred into a local bone densitometry unit for a DXA scan on account of reasons other than a prior fracture history, ascertaining vertebral fracture status may influence treatment decisions significantly for a proportion of patients.	A substantial volume of imaging is undertaken amongst over 50 year olds which presents an opportunity to significantly increase identification rates of patients with previously unrecognised vertebral fractures in the course of care for other conditions.
Footnote: This standard recognizes that vertebral fracture patients are difficult to identify. This standard is aspirational but since vertebral fractures are the most common fragility fracture it would be remiss to not include the attempt to identify them in this framework.				

5.	STANDARD	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Assessment Guidelines	The institution's secondary fracture prevention assessment, to determine the need for intervention, is consistent with local/regional/national guidelines.	The institution's assessment is consistent with peer reviewed guidance developed by the <i>Local</i> institution delivering the FLS, or by adaptation of international guidelines.	The institutions' assessment is consistent with <i>regional</i> or state guidelines.	The institution's assessment is consistent with <i>national</i> guidelines.
Guidance notes/rationale	The intention of this standard is two-fold. Firstly, the standard requires institutions to adhere to guidance that has been subject to peer review at a local, regional or national level. Secondly, the standard highlights an important leadership role that an effective FLS can play in supporting colleagues across the national healthcare system. A well-established FLS should play a leading role in lobbying for, and drafting national guidelines on secondary fracture prevention.	Although local or adapted international guideline use is accepted at this level, there is an expectation that once regional, state or national guidelines are developed the site will work towards modifying their secondary fracture prevention assessments.	Although regional or state guideline use is accepted at this level, there is an expectation that once national guidelines are developed the site will work towards modifying their secondary fracture prevention assessments.	
Footnote: It is recognized that different health care institutions/systems may be limited to the guidelines that are available within their country.				

6.	STANDARD	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Secondary Causes of Osteoporosis	Institution can demonstrate what proportion of patients who require treatment for prevention of secondary fractures undergo further investigation (typically blood testing) to assess for underlying causes of low BMD).	Institution can demonstrate that 50% of patients who need treatment are routinely screened for secondary causes of osteoporosis.	Institution can demonstrate that 70% of patients who need treatment are routinely screened for secondary causes of osteoporosis.	Institution can demonstrate that 90% patients who need treatment are routinely screened for secondary causes of osteoporosis via site protocol and referral to specialists, if indicated, has been arranged.
Guidance notes/rationale	It is Important to recognize why patients have osteoporosis. Assessment should follow an algorithm that screens for secondary causes.			For clarity, in healthcare systems where the primary care physician serves as the 'gate keeper' for referrals to specialists, the FLS is required to have a robust agreement with local primary care physicians to ensure that onward referral occurs.
Footnote: It is recognized that there will be varying methods used to identify secondary causes of osteoporosis. The philosophy of this standard is that post-fracture patients who are in need of treatment <i>are assessed</i> to identify secondary causes of osteoporosis in accordance with the institution or health care system's existing methods.				

7.	STANDARD	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Falls Prevention Services	Patients presenting with a fragility fracture, and who are perceived to be at risk of further falls, are evaluated to determine whether or not falls prevention intervention services are needed, and if so are subsequently referred to an established falls prevention service.	50% of patients presenting with fractures who are perceived to be at risk of further falls are evaluated to determine whether falls prevention services are needed.	70% of patients presenting with fractures who are perceived to be at risk of further falls are evaluated to determine whether falls prevention services are needed.	90% of patients presenting with fractures who are perceived to be at risk are evaluated to determine whether falls prevention services are needed, and appropriate patients are referred to an established falls prevention service that delivers evidence-based interventions.
Guidance notes/rationale	The grading of this standard will be based on whether falls prevention services are available. The basic standard will be that an assessment will be done to determine whether a patient needs falls prevention services. The standard rating will be raised if falls prevention services are available and whether patients can be referred to it.	All patients are evaluated for falls risk using a basic falls risk evaluation questionnaire.		Falls prevention service should deliver evidenced-based programs.
Footnote:	This standard determines whether or not a falls prevention service is available, and if so how it is being utilized. If there is not an established falls service in the locality, this standard becomes aspirational and encourages the leadership of the FLS to lobby the institution/system to make a falls service available.			

8.	STANDARD	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Multifaceted health and lifestyle risk-factor Assessment	Patients presenting with fragility fractures undergo a multifaceted risk-factor assessment as a <i>preventative measure</i> to identify any health and/or lifestyle changes that, if implemented, will reduce future fracture risk, and those patients in need are subsequently referred to the appropriate multidisciplinary practitioner for further evaluation and treatment. Going beyond treatment by medication, it is important to identify other needs for intervention that will reduce future fracture risk, including assessing for any underlying health or lifestyle risk-factors that may contribute to future fractures. Identifying risk-factors such as smoking, alcohol use, poor nutrition, lack of exercise, poor coordination, poor balance, etc. and referring the patient to the appropriate healthcare provider for intervention will help to prevent future fractures.	50% of inpatients undergo multifaceted risk-factor assessments.	70% of inpatients undergo multifaceted risk-factor assessments.	90% of inpatients undergo multifaceted risk-factor assessments.
Guidance notes/rationale	A multifaceted risk assessment can be done by <i>one</i> healthcare provider within the FLS (clinician, nurse, FLS coordinator etc.), and needed intervention services can be referred to the appropriate healthcare provider for further evaluation and treatment. For example, a very elderly patient presenting with a fragility fracture undergoes a multifaceted risk-factor assessment and is identified to have very poor coordination and balance. Identifying this, the FLS refers the patient to be fitted for hip protectors as a preventative measure for hip fracture from a fall. It is recognized that there will be varying methods used to identify multifaceted risk-factors for future fractures. The philosophy of this standard is that post-fracture patients who are in need of treatment <i>are assessed</i> to identify "lifestyle" risk-factors in accordance with the institution or health care system's existing methods.			

9.	STANDARD	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Medication Initiation	All fracture patients over 50yr, not on treatment at the time of fracture presentation, are initiated or are referred to their primary care physician/provider for initiation, where required, on osteoporosis treatment in accordance with evidence-based local/regional/national guidelines.	50% of fracture patients, who are eligible for treatment according to the evidence-based local/national/regional guideline, are initiated on osteoporosis medicines.	70% of fracture patients, who are eligible for treatment according to the evidence-based local/national/regional guideline, are initiated on osteoporosis medicines.	90% of fracture patients, who are eligible for treatment according to the evidence-based local/national/regional guideline, are initiated on osteoporosis medicines.
Guidance notes/rationale	The standard is not a general measurement of per cent of patients treated, but rather a measurement of the per cent of patients within the applicable guideline who are treated. The standard is cognisant that not all fracture patients over 50 years of age will require treatment.			
Footnote: This framework recognizes variations in the underlying health care system. Dependent on the nature of the health care system, the specialist may be able initiate treatment or, when the primary care physician/provider is the 'gatekeeper', the specialist can refer the patient to the primary care physician/provider for initiation of treatment. In either case, evidence is sought that this process is as robust as possible.				

10.	STANDARD	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Medication Review	For patients already receiving osteoporosis medications when they present with a fracture, reassessment is offered which includes review of medication compliance, consideration of alternative osteoporosis medications and optimisation of non-pharmacological interventions.	Institution demonstrates that it reviews the medications of $\geq 50\%$ of patients captured above (by the FLS), who are on treatment at time of fracture and performs a review of medication compliance and/or consideration of alternative interventions.	Institution demonstrates that it reviews the medications of $\geq 70\%$ of patients captured above (by the FLS), who are on treatment at time of fracture and performs a review of medication compliance and/or consideration of alternative interventions.	Institution demonstrates that it reviews the medications of $\geq 90\%$ of patients captured above (by the FLS), who are on treatment at time of fracture and performs a review of medication compliance and/or consideration of alternative interventions.
Guidance notes/rationale	The intention of this standard is to assess whether the FLS reviews patients that have fractured whilst, seemingly, receiving treatment for osteoporosis, and what proportion of this subgroup of patients undergo thorough review.			

11.	STANDARD	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Communication Strategy	Institution's FLS management plan is communicated to primary and secondary care clinicians and contains information required by and approved by local stakeholders.	Institution's FLS management plan is communicated to primary and secondary care physicians.	Institution demonstrates that the FLS management plan is communicated to primary and secondary care clinicians and contains at least 50% of criteria listed.*	Institution demonstrates that the FLS management plan is communicated to primary and secondary care clinicians and contains at least 90% of criteria listed.*
Guidance notes/rationale	The intention of this standard is to understand to what extent the FLS management plan - and communication of it to relevant clinical colleagues in primary and secondary care - has sought those colleagues' opinions on how best to suit their needs to ensure optimum adherence with recommendations from the FLS.			
<p>Footnote: This standard pertains mainly to situations when patients present to an inpatient or outpatient facility for a non-orthopaedic related reason, and whilst there, it is opportunistically discovered that a fracture exists (i.e. chest x-ray for pneumonia discovers a vertebral fracture). In this case a post-fracture management plan is put into place and communicated to the patient as well as to all health care providers and payers (if referral required) involved with the patient's care.</p> <p>*The criteria mentioned in Level 2 and Level 3 includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fracture risk score • DXA – BMD • DXA – vertebral fracture assessment or spine Xray result if done instead • Primary osteoporosis risk factors • Secondary causes of osteoporosis (if applicable) • Fracture/fall risk factors • Current drug treatment (if applicable) • Medication compliance review • Follow-up plan • Lifestyle risk-factor assessment • Time since last fracture 				

12.	STANDARD	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
<p>Long-term Management</p>	<p>Institution has a protocol in place for long-term follow up of evidence-based initial interventions and a long term adherence plan.</p>	<p>Treatment recommendations, for patients requiring drug treatments, include a long-term follow-up plan that occurs >12 months after fracture advising when the patient should undergo future reassessment of fracture risk and of need for treatment.</p>		<p>Treatment recommendations, for patients requiring drug treatments, include both a short-term follow-up plan <12 months after fracture, AND a long-term follow-up plan >12 after fracture, advising when the patient should undergo future reassessment of fracture risk, the need for treatment and clear guidance on when and with whom lies responsibility for monitoring adherence to treatment.</p>
<p>Guidance notes/rationale</p>	<p>The intention of this standard is to ascertain what processes are in place to ensure that long-term management of fracture risk is reliably provided. In healthcare systems with established primary care infrastructure, local primary care must be involved in developing the processes that they will implement for this aspect of post-fracture care. In healthcare systems that lack primary care infrastructure, the FLS must establish effective feedback processes directly from the patient or carer and devise strategies to ensure follow-up by the FLS.</p>	<p>Institution can demonstrate the proportion of patients originally assessed by the FLS have a long-term follow-up plan in place that has been subject at years 1 & 2 and beyond.</p>		<p>Institution can demonstrate the proportion of patients originally assessed by the FLS have a short-term follow-up plan within 6-12 months, as well as a long term management plan in place that has been subject at years 1 & 2 and beyond.</p>
<p>Footnote: A key responsibility of an FLS of care is to have a <i>protocol in place</i> to ensure long-term follow-up will take place, and clear guidance on when and with whom lies the responsibility for monitoring adherence to treatment whether it be by the FLS, referred to the primary care physician/provider, or by another means that suits the underlying health care system.</p>				

13.	STANDARD	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
<p>Database</p>	<p>All identified fragility fracture patients are recorded in a database which feeds into central national database.</p>	<p>Fragility fracture patient records (for patients captured above) are recorded in a <u>local</u> database.</p>	<p>Site demonstrates that all fragility fracture patient records identified above are recorded in a database that can be shared <u>regionally</u> for data comparison.</p>	<p>Site demonstrates that all fragility fracture patient records identified above are stored in a central, <u>national</u> database. The database can provide benchmarking against all provider units.</p>
<p>Guidance notes/rationale</p>	<p>The intention of this standard is to highlight the importance of having an effective database to underpin the service. The standard also emphasises the aspirational objective of developing local, regional and national databases that would enable benchmarking of care against the other FLS provider units throughout the country.</p>			
<p>Footnote: A local database for recording fragility fracture patient records, Level 1, is <i>essential</i> to an FLS. A national database is aspirational and is important to strive toward, and therefore is set at Level 3.</p>				

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