



# University Hospital Galway

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT  
GalwayEM.ie

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## **Shoulder Injuries**

**(<https://galwayem.ie/index.php/index.php/guidelines/trauma-and-musculoskeletal/shoulder-injuries>)**

Category

[Trauma and Musculoskeletal](#)

<https://galwayem.ie/index.php/index.php/guidelines/trauma-and-musculoskeletal>

NB - With ALL shoulder injuries, test nerves and circulation to upper limb.

### **Fracture clavicle**

Broad arm sling. Refer Virtual Fracture Clinic (VFC)

**Fracture scapula** (beware of other injuries as it takes a lot of force to fracture the scapula)

Broad arm sling and refer VFC.

### **Fracture greater tuberosity**

Sling, Refer VFC.

### **Anterior dislocation SC joint**

Ask advice

### **Dislocation/subluxation AC joint**

Broad arm sling. Review clinic. If marked skin tenting, refer fracture clinic

### **Posterior dislocation SC joint**

Ask advice

### **Fracture surgical neck humerus**

Test axillary nerve, Collar & Cuff/Sling. Refer VFC.

### **Fracture shaft of humerus**

Test radial nerve. If radial nerve deficit refer Ortho On-call. Otherwise Humeral brace/ POP 'U' slab & Collar and Cuff. Refer VFC. Ask advice if significantly displaced.

### **Anterior Dislocation of shoulder**

Test axillary nerve and other nerves pre-reduction **AND DOCUMENT**. Reduce. Recheck nerves. Post reduction x-ray. Shoulder immobiliser. Refer VFC.

### **Dislocation shoulder associated with fracture greater tuberosity**

Treat as for dislocation.

**Dislocation shoulder, associated with fracture surgical neck**

Refer orthopaedics, seek senior advice.

**Soft tissue shoulder injuries**

Broad arm sling for short time (2-3 days) only if necessary for symptomatic relief. Review clinic 2 weeks if necessary.

**Rupture long head biceps**

Refer to Physiotherapy

**NOTE**

**Shoulder injuries with the exception of displaced fracture neck of humerus are treated in a broad arm sling NOT a collar and cuff**

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