



# University Hospital Galway

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT  
GalwayEM.ie

## Elbow injuries

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

Category

[Trauma and Musculoskeletal \(https://galwayem.ie/index.php/guidelines/trauma-and-musculoskeletal\)](https://galwayem.ie/index.php/guidelines/trauma-and-musculoskeletal)

### **Supracondylar fracture**

Undisplaced - Collar & cuff. Refer VFC

Displaced - If neurovascular injury ask advice urgently. Refer Ortho On-call.

### **Dislocation of elbow**

If neurovascular injury, ask advice urgently.

Reduce (sedation in adults - GA in children)

Post reduction X-ray. Re-check neurovascular status. Wool & crepe, sling.

If associated with fracture or joint unstable post reduction refer Ortho On-call.

### **T or Y intercondylar fractures**

Refer Ortho On-call

### **Fractures condyle/epicondyle**

Undisplaced - Backslab. Refer to Fracture Clinic

Displaced - Refer orthopaedics

### **Pulled elbow**

This is a clinical diagnosis. No x-rays necessary in patient with a typical history and examination.

Manipulate - it should go back with a 'click'. Wait 5-10 minutes.

If the child starts to use elbow - discharge - no follow-up.

If the child does not start to use elbow reconsider diagnosis (x-ray if necessary), collar and cuff,

Review Clinic next day if still not using.

[https://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guideline\\_index/Pulled\\_Elbow/](https://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guideline_index/Pulled_Elbow/)

[\(https://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guideline\\_index/Pulled\\_Elbow/\)](https://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guideline_index/Pulled_Elbow/)

### **Fracture radial head**

Undisplaced - Collar & Cuff. Refer VFC. Beware associated injuries

Widely displaced - Refer Ortho On-call.

### **Fracture radial neck**

Undisplaced - Collar & Cuff. Refer VFC.

Widely displaced - Refer Ortho On-call.

**Fracture olecranon**

Undisplaced - Wool & crepe. Collar & Cuff. Refer VFC.

Displaced - Refer Ortho On-call.

**Dislocation radial head**

May be of long standing - ask advice

**Elbow injury with radiological evidence of an effusion but no fracture.**

Collar and Cuff. (positive fat pad sign) Review Clinic in one week

**NB** Elbow injuries are treated in a collar and cuff **not** a broad arm sling.

---

**Source URL:** <https://galwayem.ie/guidelines/trauma-and-musculoskeletal/elbow-injuries>