



University Hospital Galway

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT
GalwayEM.ie

Back Injuries

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

Category

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

Minor wedge fracture without neurological signs following low velocity injury

Needs initial bed rest followed by mobilisation and analgesia.

Whether this is done at home or in hospital depends on severity of fracture, pain, support at home etc.

- Analgesia
- Senior advice
- Fracture clinic follow up

Fracture transverse process

- Test urine for macroscopic blood
- Analgesia and mobilisation
- Fracture Clinic follow up

All other Fractures Thoracic or Lumbar Spine

- Analgesia
- Out rule other injuries
- D/W ED senior doctor re CT
- Refer orthopaedics

Displaced fracture sacrum

- Refer orthopaedics

Undisplaced fractures sacrum/coccyx

- Analgesia
- Advise patient to sit on rubber ring
- Follow up at Fracture Clinic or Review Clinic

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