



# University Hospital Galway

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT  
GalwayEM.ie

## Wrist Injuries

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

Category

Trauma and Musculoskeletal (<https://galwayem.ie/guidelines/trauma-and-musculoskeletal>)

### **Fracture Distal Radius**

#### **Un-displaced**

Futura splint, Broad arm sling. Advice on finger, elbow and shoulder exercises.  
Refer Virtual Fracture Clinic (VFC).

#### **Satisfactory position-** potentially unstable

Futura splint/ POP backslab, analgesia  
Refer VFC

#### **Obvious deformity**

Back slab. Refer Ortho On-call.

#### **Epiphysis fracture lower radius**

Acceptable position (ask advice if necessary)  
As for undisplaced distal radius fracture.

Displaced Refer Ortho On-call.

#### **“Off ended” fractures of the distal radius**

Discuss with ED senior re reduction in ED prior to referral to Ortho On-call.

#### **Buckle/Torus fracture distal radius or ulna**

Futura splint/ Tubigrip.  
ED Review Clinic 10-14 days.

#### **Fracture scaphoid on X-ray**

Scaphoid POP/ Futura splint with thumb extension.  
Refer VFC.

#### **Tenderness over scaphoid but scaphoid x-rays show NO fracture**

If other evidence of a fracture - eg swelling, restriction of movement, tenderness of scaphoid tubercle  
Futura splint with thumb extension.

Review Clinic in 10-14 days

If just tenderness, without other signs Tubigrip or Futura splint

Review Clinic in 10-14 days

**Fracture radial styloid (usually undisplaced)**

Futura splint. Refer VFC.

**Small "chip" fractures eg of triquetrum or ulna styloid**

Symptomatic treatment e.g. Tubigrip/ Futura splint.

Review Clinic in 10-14 days.

**Other carpal injuries** Ask advice

Beware dislocations around the Lunate and at the Metacarpal bases

Do not treat simple soft tissue injuries in a Futura splint.

Image

([https://galwayem.ie/home/galwayem\\_live/galwayem/web/sites/default/files/images/Lunate.png](https://galwayem.ie/home/galwayem_live/galwayem/web/sites/default/files/images/Lunate.png))

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