

# Communiqué

August 2022



## Drug Study

A study investigating the prevalence of psychoactive drugs in trauma patients presenting to an Emergency Department has been published in the EMA. The results showed nearly six out of ten patients had at least one psychoactive drug detected, with Cannabis, anti-depressants, alcohol and methamphetamine the most common. People who had recreational drugs detected were likely to present any day of the week, and any time of the day. Opioids were detected at the same level as a similar study in the US. The authors proved the feasibility of an approach which limited bias to obtain accurate results.

## Māori experiences of Major Trauma Care and Rehabilitation

A recent report was published by the Commission about whānau Māori experiences of major trauma care and rehabilitation.

The [report](#) makes six recommendations to build culturally and medically responsive health services for trauma patients. [Simple tools](#) are available for clinicians to use, and include [how to mihi](#) with Māori patients. A survey is being conducted to gather baseline data from acute clinical trauma and inpatient rehabilitation services. The purpose of the survey is to evaluate the impact of the tools and to support a continued focus on this work.

## Major trauma rehabilitation collaborative ends

The trauma rehabilitation collaborative ended in June 2022, with nine projects successfully completed. The projects have led to improvement across the rehabilitation sector, specifically with:

- Organised case management
- Timely access to community follow-up
- Incorporation of Kaupapa Māori concepts into traditional models of rehabilitation
- Improved patient experiences
- Evidence for business cases that has resulted in additional resource

Through completing their projects, the teams learned quality improvement skills that they can use in future project work. The projects will be published over the next few months on the website to share the innovations and outcomes.

EMA Emergency Medicine Australasia



Original Research

## Prevalence of psychoactive drugs in injured patients presenting to an emergency department

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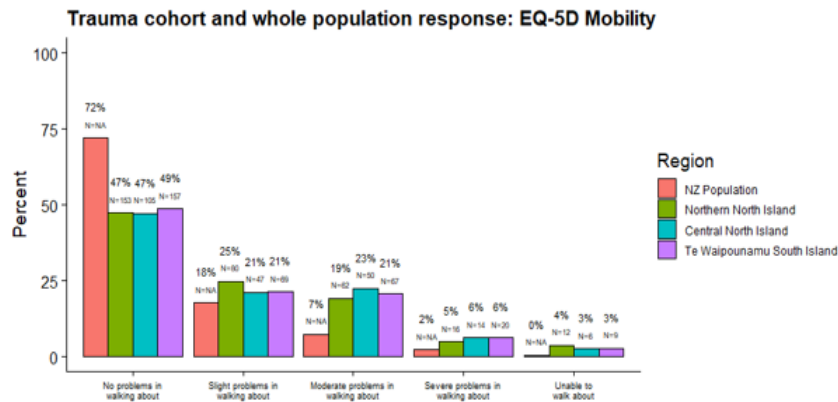
## Severe Traumatic Brain Injury (sTBI) project

The scoping of the sTBI project has been completed following in-person visits to 8 regional centres and 4 neuroscience centres. These visits enabled a discussion (with broad agreement) for a national approach across two workstreams:

1. Acute management – including the transportation or transfer of eligible patients to neuroscience facility where the care of a specialised multidisciplinary team will support optimal management of care. Guidance resources are in development.
2. Acute to rehabilitation – A sTBI national collaborative project is scheduled to begin October 18. This project will invite teams to work together over 5 months to improve the consistency and reliability of post-traumatic amnesia (PTA) assessment among in-patients who have an occult TBI. For more information on how to get involved, contact [help@majortrauma.nz](mailto:help@majortrauma.nz)

## Patient Reported Outcome Measures

The first tranche of results have been analysed which look at the EQ5D outcomes at 6-months post-injury. This is the first time we are able to have insight into the functional returns of patients after they leave hospital and is the start of what we hope is a long-term exercise undertaken on all major trauma patients who agree to participate. Further work is underway to risk-adjust the results to understand unwarranted variation and to inform strategies to improve long-term functional return.



Trauma cohort and whole population response: EQ-5D Self-care

## Allied Health Trauma Rehabilitation Study Day

An interactive allied health trauma rehabilitation study day held recently in Wellington brought together 34 professionals including physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers, speech and language, and psychology to collaborate on the future of trauma rehabilitation. Best-practice models of care and high-quality service delivery to support people through their recovery were discussed. There was clear drive towards increasing the profile of allied health in trauma care and creating a national group to help improve services.

The Network and Commission team are now considering how to progress the outcomes from the study day within the context of the broader trauma rehabilitation programme. They recognise the importance of the allied health workforce in the ongoing vision of developing a contemporary trauma system in Aotearoa New Zealand. [Click here](#) to read the full summary.



### Key dates

27 September National Trauma Symposium  
28 September TNC Day at Wellington

[See more upcoming conferences](#)

Have a story to share, or a colleague to celebrate? [Contact us](#)