



Mallow Injury Unit is very convenient for residents of North Cork.





Mallow Injury Unit can treat minor injuries quickly.

Mallow Injury Unit continuesto treat more patientsContractionC

UNIT IS OPEN 8AM-8PM SEVEN DAYS A WEEK TO TREAT INJURIES SUCH AS BROKEN BONES, DISLOCATIONS, SPRAINS, STRAINS, AND MINOR BURNS

MALLOW Injury Unit is one of 11 Injury Units now in place across the country. It is open seven days a week from 8am to 8pm and can treat patients aged five and over for a wide variety of injuries, such as broken bones, dislocations, sprains, strains, and minor burns. In 2016 over 6,000 patients

In 2016 over 6,000 patients attended Mallow Injury Unit and this year the number of patients treated has continued to increase with the latest available data showing that over 6,300 patients were treated in the unit in 2017.

"We know from feedback received that patients who use our Injury Units generally have a very positive experience," said Dr Gerry McCarthy, Consultant in Emergency Medicine, and Clinical Lead of the National Emergency Medicine Programme. "But we really want to make sure that everyone knows just what our Injury Units do and the efficient and high quality care they will receive when they attend."

Injury Units can treat patients with broken bones,

MALLOW INJURY UNIT

dislocations, sprains, strains, wounds, scalds and minor burns that are unlikely to need overnight admission to hospital. Staff members take x-rays, reduce joint dislocations, apply plaster casts and treat wounds by stitches or other means.

They provide swift access to tests and x-rays and some have rapid access to physiotherapy services.

They are staffed by Consultant-led teams of doctors, advanced nurse practitioners, nurses, radiographers and physiotherapists. Patients can go directly to the Unit or be referred by a GP. Dr McCarthy added: "Many

Dr McCarthy added: "Many Injury Units are reporting fast turnaround times for seeing and treating patients. In many cases the average time reported is between one and two hours, and sometimes less, so patients can save themselves long waiting times by attending Injury Units instead of Eds (Emergen-



Evelyn Walsh (Senior Staff Nurse), Denise Finnegan (Clerical Support), Sharon Kennedy (Staff Nurse) and Kathryn Reid (Clinical Nurse Manager) pictured in the Mallow Injury Unit at Mallow General Hospital. Photos: Sheila Fitzgerald

cy Depts) when it is appropriate to do so."

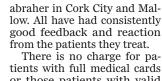
Explaining that each Unit is linked to a Hub Emergency Department in an acute hospital, Dr McCarthy added: "If a patient in an Injury Unit needs to be admitted to hospital they will be referred directly to a linked hospital in exactly the same way as if they had attended the Hub Emergency Department.

"Our Units provide the same level of expertise and service as Emergency Departments, for the appropriate group of patients, but they are not designed to treat serious head, back or neck injuries, abdominal (stomach) pain, medical illnesses or

as if they had attended the Hub mental health problems.

"They do not treat children under the age of five, because of the special requirements of young children attending hospital, with some having a higher age threshold."

There are 11 of these Units across the country, including three in Cork, in Bantry, Gurrn-



tients with full medical cards or those patients with valid medical/GP referral letter. For more information, visit

www.hse.ie/injuryunits

Mallow Injury Unit is located at Mallow General Hospital.



Staff at the nurses' station at Mallow Injury Unit.