



## An Audit of Patients with Suspected Scaphoid Fractures in the Emergency Department of Sligo University Hospital

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### Introduction

A patient referred for a scaphoid x-ray is akin to a passenger going on a train journey. Once started it's a very specific pathway with only certain points down the line where patients can disembark. This poster highlights the journey of patients referred for scaphoid x-rays in Sligo Emergency Department from June to August, 2015.

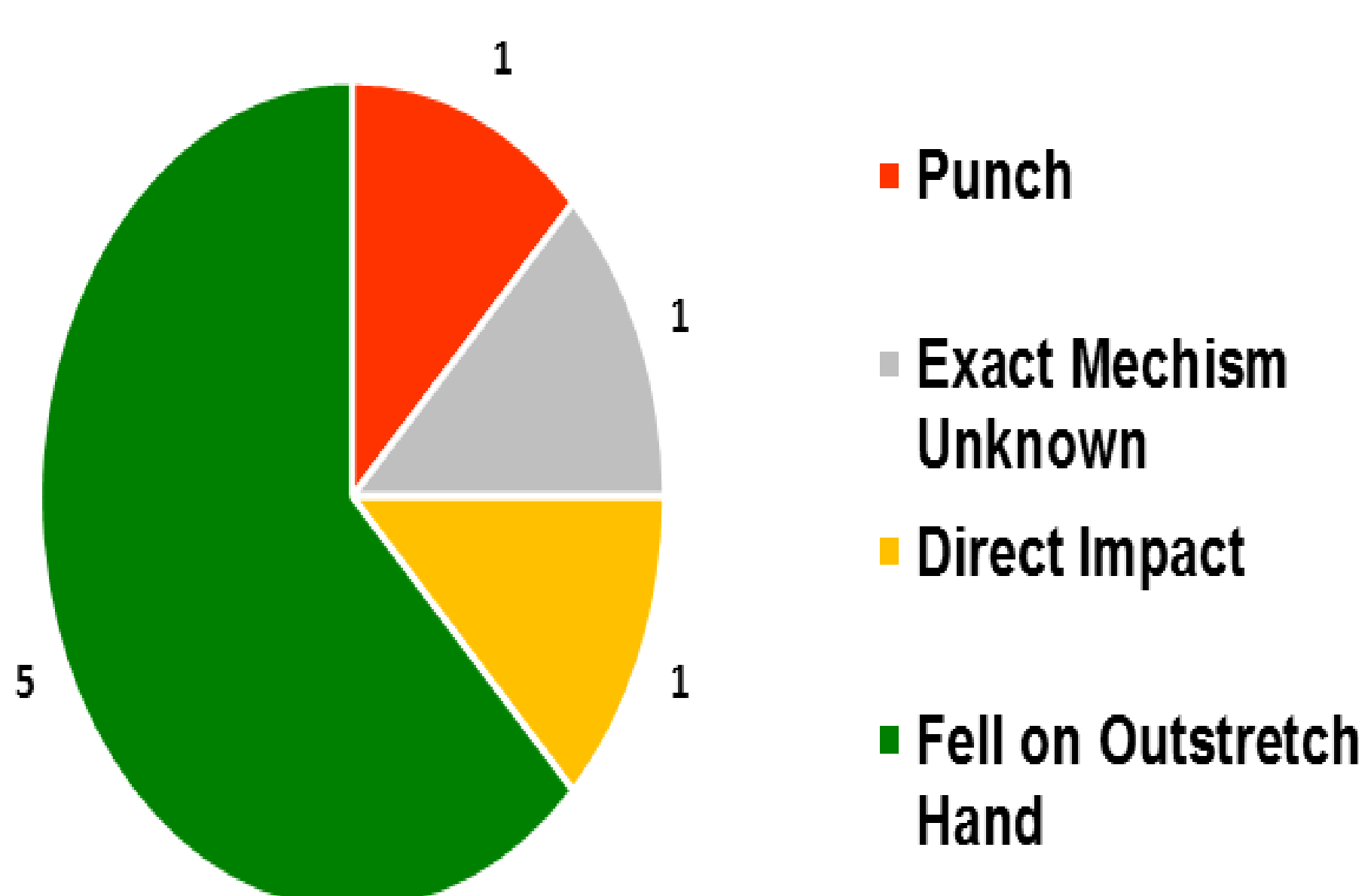
### Aims & Objectives

- To quantify the time patients, without a fracture, spent immobilised.
- To identify the number of review clinic appointments utilised for each patient.
- To document mechanism of injury of patients who had a fracture of the scaphoid bone.
- To identify number of MRI scans completed.
- To identify areas of improvement in our management of patients with suspected scaphoid fractures.

### Methods

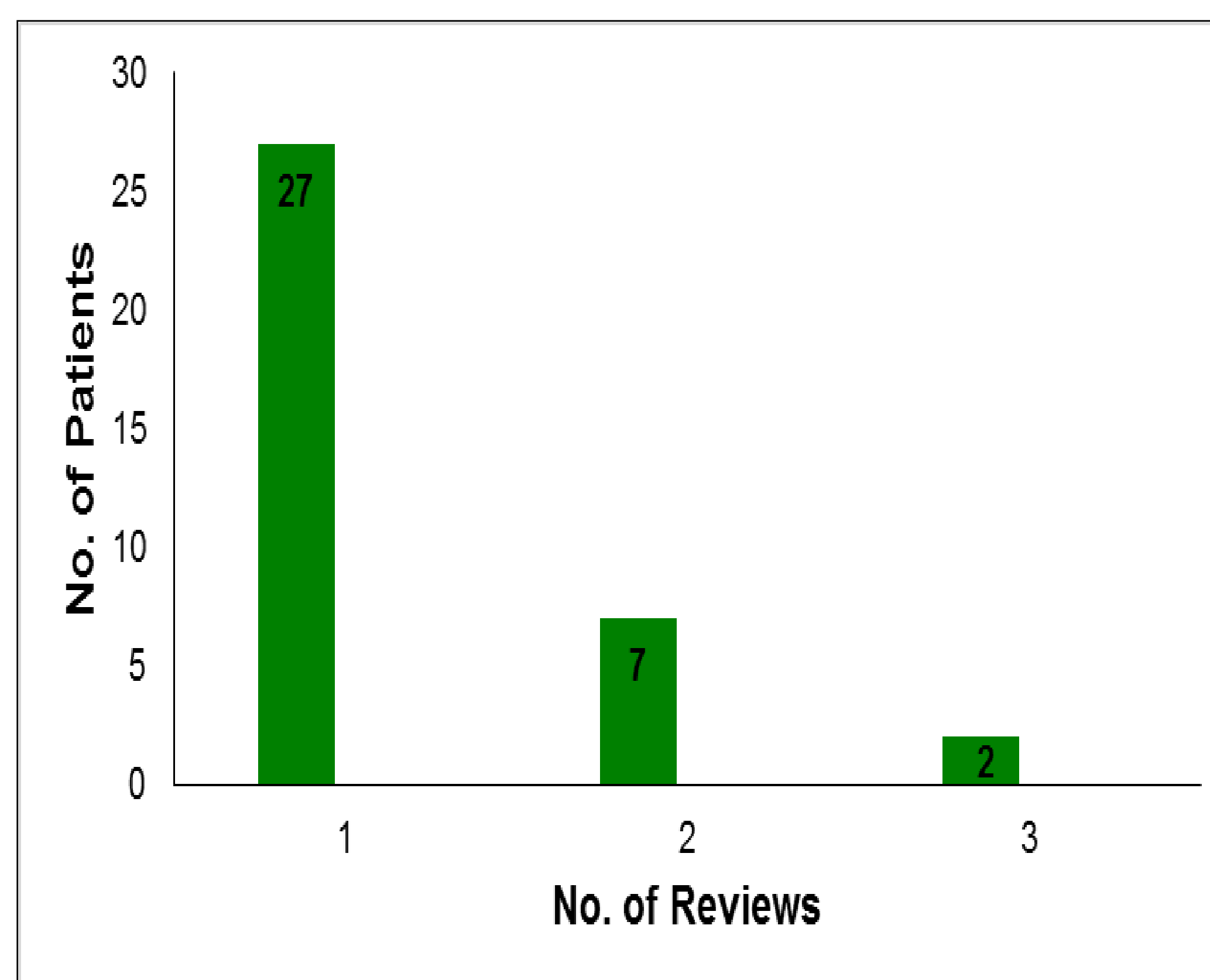
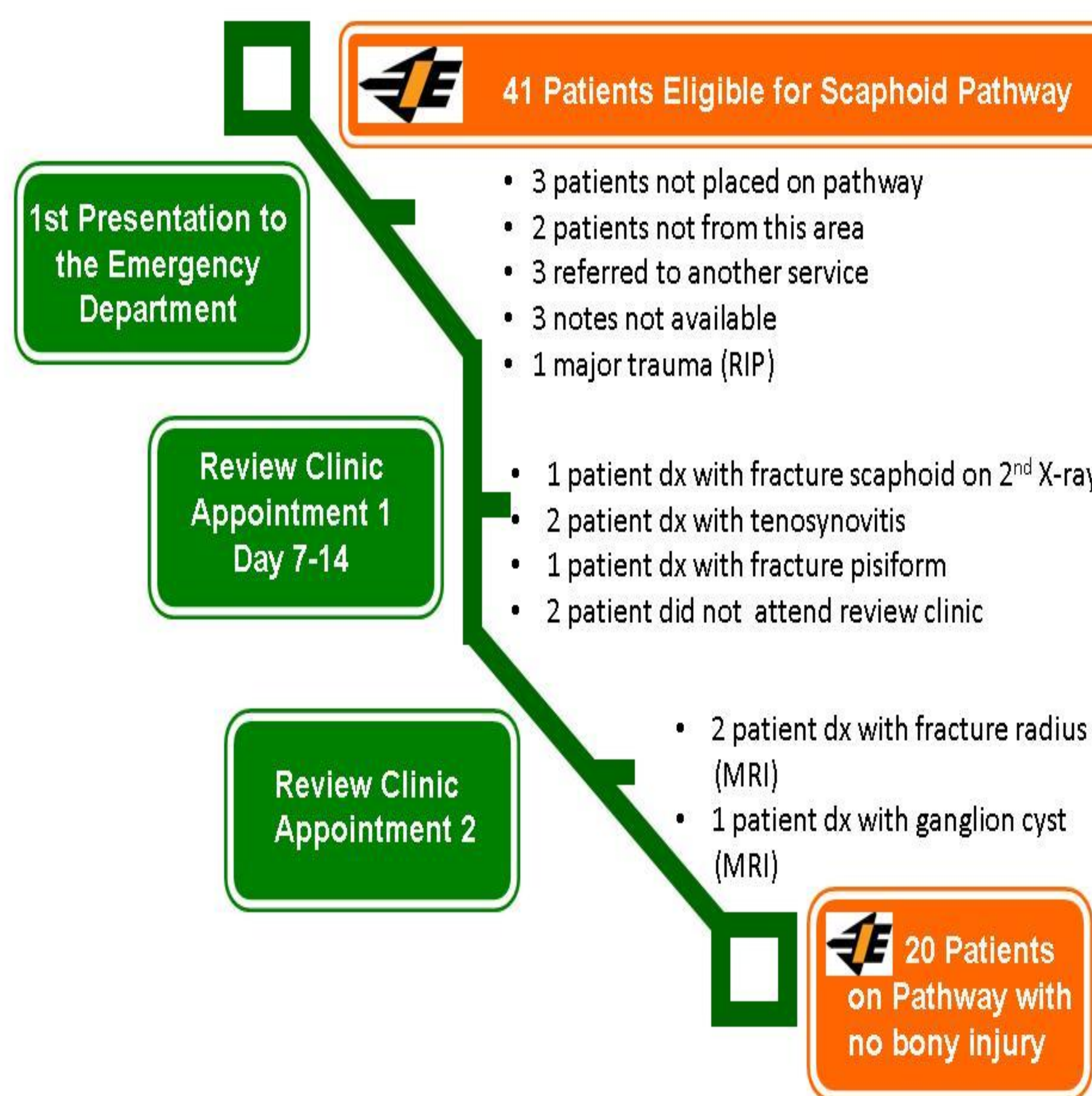
- Audit of 60 patients with suspected scaphoid fractures presenting to the ED, identified using the radiology PAC system.
- Data was collected retrospectively from patients ED notes.

#### Mechanism of Injury of Scaphoid Fracture

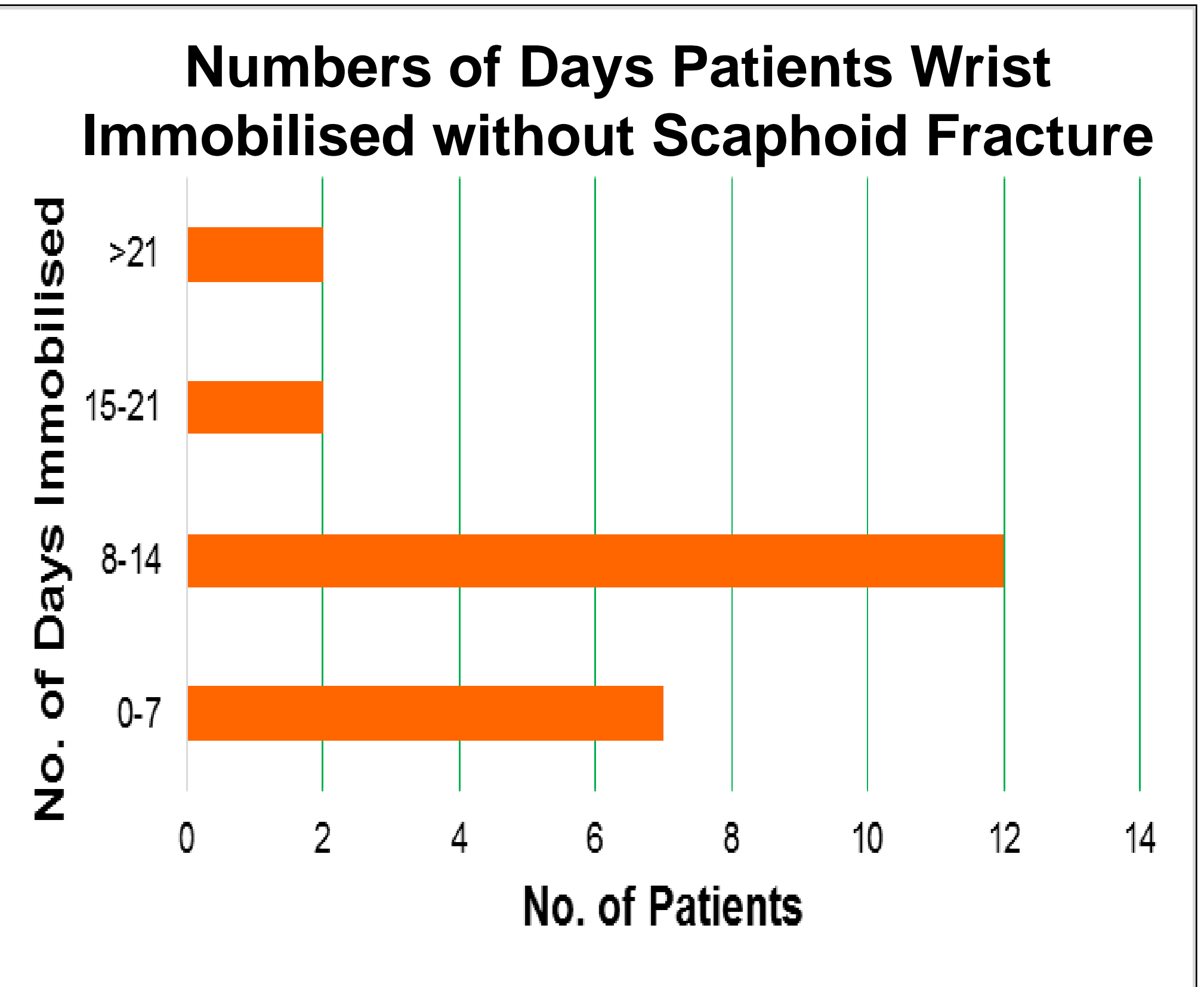


### Scaphoid Route Map

Diagnoses of Scaphoid Fracture	No.
1 <sup>st</sup> Presentation	7
Review clinic	1



Diagnoses on MRI	Number
Fracture Scaphoid	0
Fracture Radius	2
Ganglion Cyst	1
No Abnormality	11
Total MRI of Scaphoid	14



### Conclusion

- These patients require a large number of review clinic appointments in the ED.
- A significant number of patients are immobilised without bony injury.
- This can be an inconvenience for patients, in some cases leaving them unable to drive or work and may lead to financial losses.

### Recommendations

- Introduction of a Clinical Scaphoid Score to help improve identification of patients with suspected scaphoid fractures.
- A re-audit to evaluate the effectiveness of the clinical scaphoid score.

### Actions

- This audit was presented to staff within Sligo Emergency Department.
- Educational sessions have taken place.
- Clinical information posters on the Clinical Scaphoid Score have been placed in clinical areas.

### References

Bergh, T.H., Lindau, T., Soosaipillai, L.A.S., Bernardshaw, V., Behzadi, M., Steen, K. & Brudvik, C. (2015) Clinical scaphoid score (CSS) to identify scaphoid fracture with MRI in patients with normal x-ray after a wrist trauma. Emergency Medical Journal, 00:1-6, doi:10.1136/emermed-2012-202219.