

# Network Policy



**Peninsula  
Trauma  
Network**

## Burns Policy

Date	Version
January 2014	V2

### Purpose

Following the national introduction of Regional Trauma Networks, Major Trauma Centres (MTC's) are required to have a suite of clinical guidelines for major trauma patients.

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction and guidance for actions from key individuals and organisations within The Peninsula Trauma Network to improve the patient pathway and ensure that patients are repatriated as expediently as possible.

### Who should read this document?

Trauma Network Clinical and Governance Directors  
TU and MTC Clinical Leads for Major Trauma  
Trauma Team Leaders  
All Clinicians Transferring Patients to Specialist Centres  
Acute Trust Lead Nurses

### Key messages

### Accountabilities

<b>Production</b>	Ms Jolita Zakaraite, Dr Mark Jadav, Surg Capt Rory Rickard
<b>Review and approval</b>	PTN Clinical Advisory Group
<b>Ratification</b>	PTN Executive Board
<b>Dissemination</b>	All PTN acute Trusts,
<b>Compliance</b>	All Parties

### Links to other policies and procedures

PTN Automatic Acceptance Policy  
PTN Secondary Transfer Policy  
PTN Safe Transfer of the Critically Ill Patient  
Peninsula and Severn Trauma Networks Paediatric Secondary Transfer Policy

### Version History

<b>V1</b>	Iain Grant	Clinical Director, Peninsula Trauma Network
<b>V2</b>	Ms Jolita Zakaraite	Locum Consultant Plastic Surgeon

Last Approval	Due for Review

## 1 Introduction

Burns are a form of trauma, and may also accompany physical traumatic injury. Outcomes from severe burn injuries have improved because of the development of specialized services that have access to the resources and disciplines necessary for optimum treatment. Outcomes from less severe burns, which do not require this level of care are not necessarily improved by management at a higher level of care and hence are better managed closer to home by a suitably designated provider.

## 2 Levels of Burn Care

Burn care providers in the UK have been designated according to three tiers of care<sup>1</sup>:

**Burn Centres** – This level of inpatient burn care is for the highest level of injury complexity and offers a separately staffed, geographically discrete ward. The service is skilled to the highest level of critical care and has immediate operating theatre access.

**Burn Units** – This level of inpatient care is for the moderate level of injury complexity and offers a separately staffed, discrete ward.

**Burn Facilities** – This level of inpatient care equates to a plastic surgical ward for the care of noncomplex burn injuries

## 3 Providers

Within the south west of England and southern Wales, four providers have been commissioned to provide burn care to adults and children at the following levels:

Provider	Adults	Children (<16 years)
Swansea (Welsh Centre for Burns Plastic Surgery, Morriston Hospital)	Centre, Unit and Facility	Unit and Facility
Bristol (Frenchay Hospital and Bristol Children's Hospital)	Unit and Facility	Centre, Unit and Facility
Salisbury (Salisbury District Hospital)	Unit and Facility	Unit and Facility
Plymouth (Derriford Hospital)	Facility	Facility

## 4 Thresholds

Thresholds for referral into each tier are defined in the document National Burn Care Referral Guidance, v1, Feb 2012.<sup>2</sup> Burn care referrals should be made to the nearest SWUK Burns Facility or Unit in the first instance. These services will assist with advice or immediate treatment or transfer and will help to arrange transfer of complex cases to the adult and paediatric Burns centres where appropriate.<sup>3</sup> Where there is doubt about severity, available evidence shows that, in terms of percentage of total body surface area burned, small burns tend to be over-estimated and large burns tend to be under-estimated.

## 5 Travel times.

Travel times by road to each provider are illustrated at Figure 1.

1 National Burn Care Review (2001), 'Standards and strategy for burn care'. Available at: <http://www.britishburnassociation.org/nbc>

2 Available at: [http://www.britishburnassociation.org/downloads/National\\_Burn\\_Care\\_Referral\\_Guidance\\_-\\_5.2.12.pdf](http://www.britishburnassociation.org/downloads/National_Burn_Care_Referral_Guidance_-_5.2.12.pdf) (attached)

3 South West UK Burn Care Network Designation Letter dated 1 July 2010 (attached)

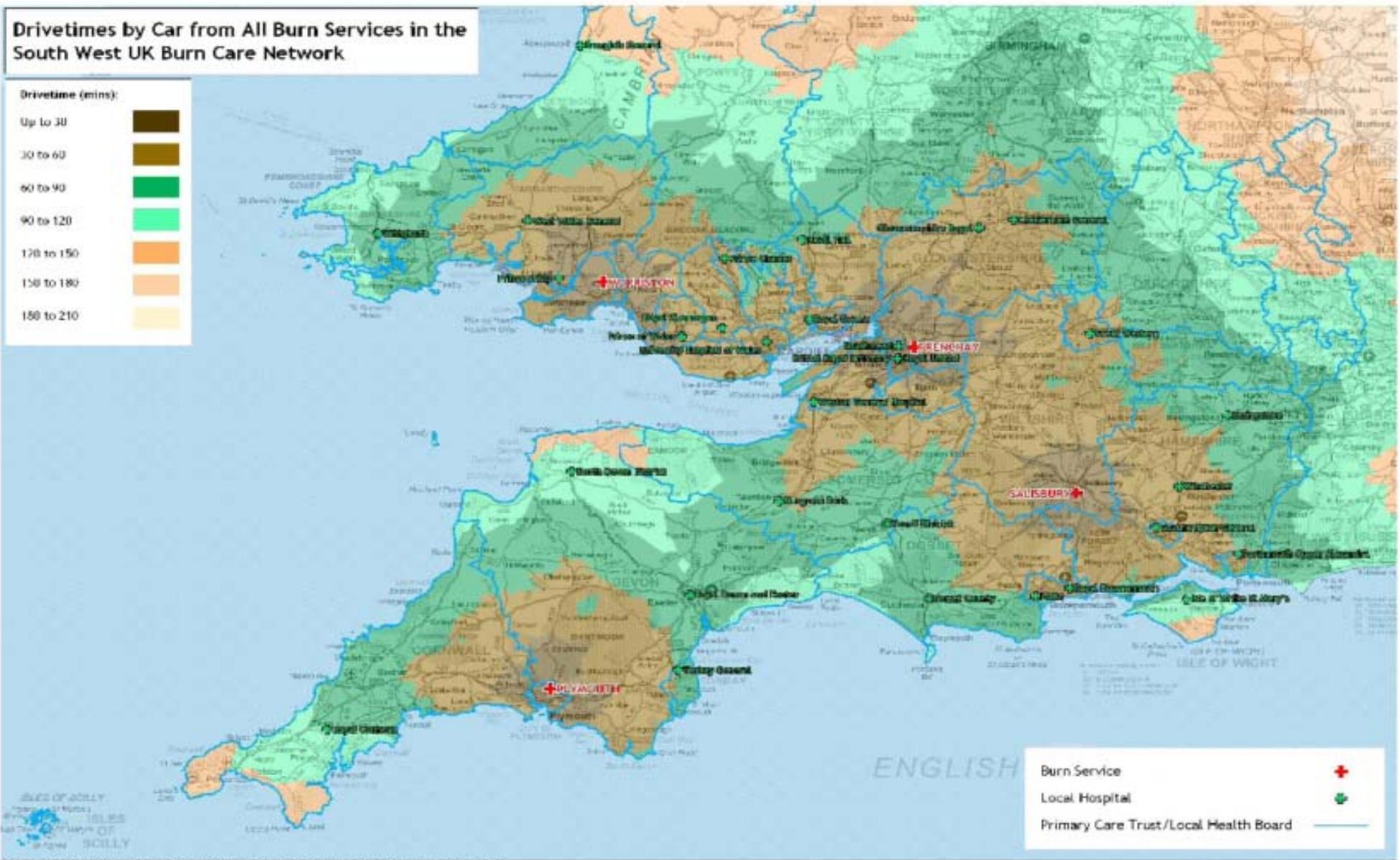


Figure 1. Burn Services and travel times by road, South West UK Burn Care Operational Delivery Network