

This material was funded and developed in collaboration between UCB Pharma Ltd and Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust as part of a non-promotional Joint Working project.

Executive Summary

Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust and UCB Pharma Limited, Patient identification in fracture liaison services: supporting digital solutions with NHS clinical teams

Joint Working Project Executive Summary

This summary has been written by UCB Pharma Ltd with consultation and approval from the Joint project working team.

The Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust and UCB Pharma Ltd, are embarking on a joint working project to optimise the number of fracture patients identified to Fracture Liaison Services (FLS), by utilising an electronic patient management digital solution. The parties have agreed that the project should be undertaken in accordance with the principles and guidance relating to joint working between the NHS and the pharmaceutical industry.

Osteoporosis, literally “porous bone,” is a disease characterised by weak bone. It is a major public health problem, affecting hundreds of millions of people worldwide, predominantly postmenopausal women. The main clinical consequence of the disease is bone fractures. In the UK in 2019 there were 527,000 new fragility fractures, 1,444 per day and 60 fractures an hour; by 2034 this is predicted to rise to 665,000 new fragility fractures per year. The cost of osteoporotic fractures in the UK accounted for approximately 2.4% of healthcare spending (i.e., £4.75billion out of £196.18 billion in 2019). These numbers indicate a substantial impact of fragility fractures on the healthcare budget¹

In addition to pain and disability, some fractures are associated with premature mortality. ¹ The impact of osteoporosis on individuals can be devastating. Fragility fractures can lead to loss of independence, mobility, and the capacity to carry out everyday tasks.²

The project's aim is to partner with UCB's digital solution provider to enable access to a patient management system and make it available to NHS FLS services. UCB agrees to provide the Trust with access to a digital FLS pathway solution, including all implementation of the module into existing systems and any follow-up optimisation needed. The FLS module shall be provided to UCB by UCB's third party service provider.

Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust are adopting the FLS module to add to a suite of digital solutions that are existing or are to be planned to be implemented within their clinical systems. The primary objective of the project is to bring benefits to patients; the FLS service and improve patient outcomes through targeted identification of an at-risk population, support high quality assessment and management whilst adding aggregated patient data to nationally registered data set.

Project contribution:

Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust will lead delivery of clinical services, oversee quality transformation, governance and monitoring and manage the prioritisation of high-risk patients. Provide in-kind contributions such as clinical leadership and data monitoring.

UCB Pharma Ltd: Provide funding for a Pathpoint FLS digital pathway tool from Open Medical at £7,050 per annum, this will include Open Medical team providing ongoing support to embed the tool and training for the clinical team in Portsmouth. The Service Partnerships Lead from UCB will support service transformation and business case development.

The project commenced in November 2024 and is a 24-month commitment to the hospital Trust.

Roles and Responsibilities of NHS and UCB Teams

The NHS team is primarily responsible for implementing the Fracture Liaison Service (FLS) and using the financial and resource support provided to enhance patient care. Their roles include identifying and assessing a greater number of patients, improving workforce efficiencies within the FLS team, collecting robust data for national audits, and focusing on improved patient outcomes while addressing unmet needs.

The UCB team's responsibilities revolve around supporting the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust clinical team with resources and funding. To monitor and oversee the Open Medical team as the provider of the digital tool to support successful implementation. This enables UCB to gain deeper insights into the fragility fracture patient population, understand the challenges faced by the NHS in delivering high-quality services, and explore opportunities to expand the eligible patient population. Additionally, UCB monitors the expected increase in the use of anti-osteoporotic medication in accordance with local and national standards of care.

Intended benefit:

For the patient	<p>Identification of those patients who have fractured and identified to services to assess for future fracture nationally is currently 25.9%³</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More patients identified for assessment • Increased number of and timely patient assessments completed • Increased number of patients treated appropriately based on local, or national guidance • Increased number of patients follow ups at 4 and 12 months, these are national care standards
For the NHS	<p>The financial and resource support given in this project gives the current Fracture Liaison service an opportunity to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of patients identified and assessed • Workforce efficiencies of FLS team • Improved data collection and input into national crown audit • Improved patient outcomes and identify unmet need
For UCB	<p>Providing financial and resource support to the NHS Trusts in this project helps UCB understand further fragility fracture patient population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better understanding of the challenges faced by the NHS in delivering high-quality patient services and care • Potential expansion of the relevant and eligible patient population as a result of the activity • It is expected to see an increase in the use of anti-osteoporotic medication in line with local and national guidelines and standards of care

It is anticipated that a report on the outcomes from this joint working project will be published May 2027

For further information please contact:

Funmi Oluwa, Head of Market Access & External Engagement UCB Pharma Ltd

Email: Funmi.Oluwa@ucb.com

Tel: +44-17-5344 7116

Mr Paul Stansfield – Care Group Manager

Name of NHS Trust: Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust

Email: Paul.Stansfield@porthosp.nhs.uk

References

1. Kanis JA, et al. SCOPE 2021: a new scorecard for osteoporosis in Europe, Arch Osteoporos, 2021
2. Royal Osteoporosis Society. APPG on osteoporosis and bone health. Available at: [seen-heard-supported-appg-on-osteoporosis-and-bone-health-jan-2026.pdf](#) [accessed on 15.04.2026]
3. Fracture Liaison Service Database <https://www.fffap.org.uk/FLS/charts.nsf/benchmarks?readform&yr=2023&vw=&org1=> [accessed on 05.06.2023]

Date of preparation October 2023, reapproved in April 2026 Job Code GB-OT-2600026