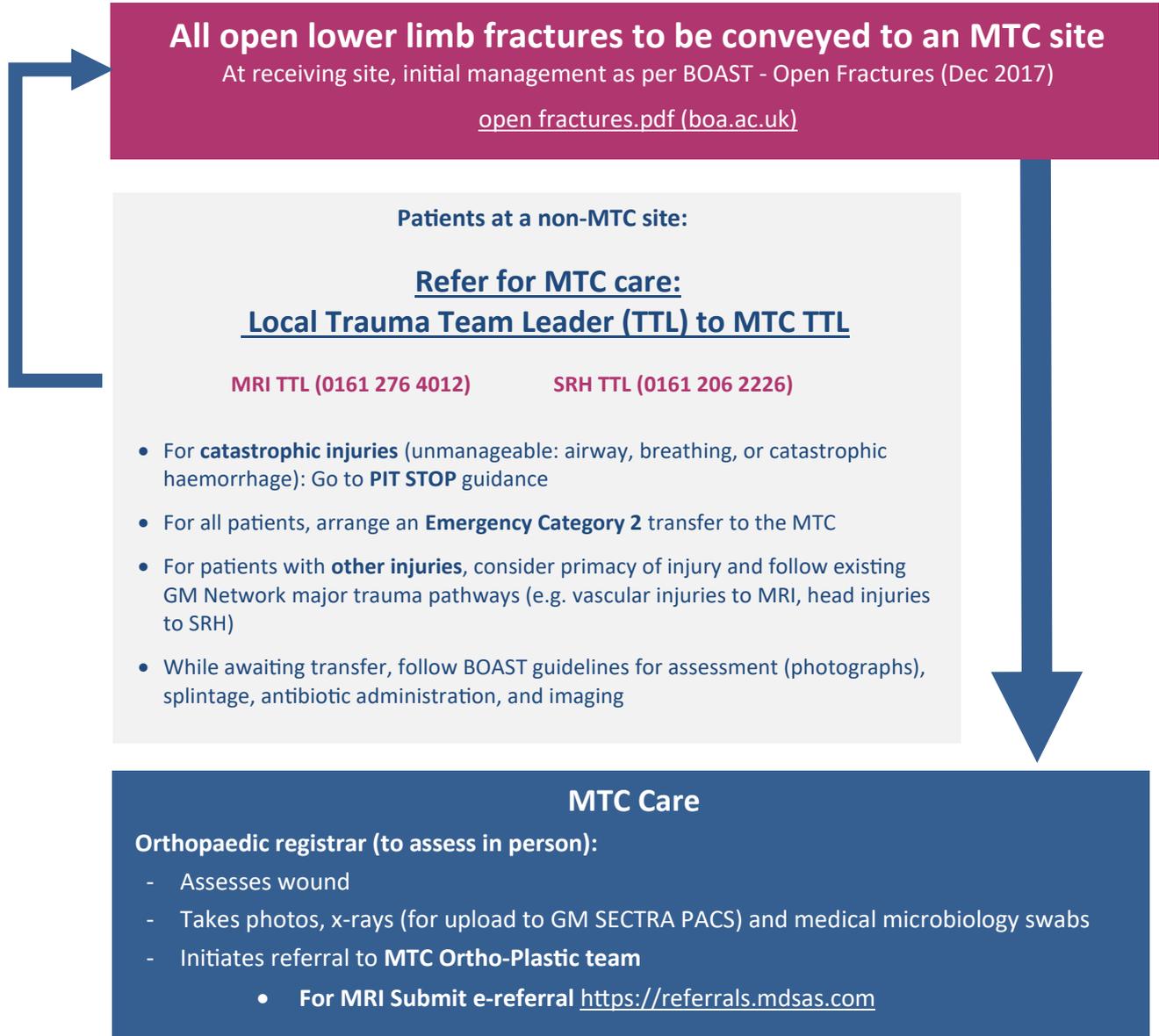


**OPEN LOWER LIMB FRACTURES**  
 GM Major Trauma Network Adult Pathway  
 Version 4.1 August 2024



<b>Primary Surgery</b> <i>(Gustilo classification refined by orthopaedics)</i>	<b>Immediate Surgery:</b>	For <b>highly contaminated wounds</b> (agricultural, aquatic, sewage) or when there is an associated <b>vascular compromise</b> (compartment syndrome or arterial disruption producing ischaemia).
	<b>Within 12 hours of injury:</b>	For other solitary <b>high energy</b> open fractures
	<b>Within 24 hours of injury:</b>	For all other <b>low energy</b> open fractures
<b>Definitive Surgery</b>	<b>Within 72 hours of injury:</b>	<b>Definitive soft tissue closure</b> or coverage should be achieved within 72 hours of injury if it cannot be performed at the time of debridement.  <i>In cases where delay to wound cover is deemed clinically beneficial, an exception report should be documented and audited</i>