### Rationale of Module

The nursing care of the orthopaedic trauma patient focuses on injuries of the musculoskeletal system and the associated muscles, ligaments, tendons, and joints. Early stabilization, knowledgeable and skilled nursing assessments and interventions are imperative to the patient gaining functional outcome and achieving rehabilitation goals. Knowing the mechanism of injury is essential to understanding and caring for musculoskeletal trauma injuries. Because patients with traumatic orthopaedic injuries are at higher risk of complications, it is important that the nurse can initiate appropriate nursing care recognizing possible complications that is vital for saving the life or limb of the patient.

### Module Aims

This module aims to provide the student with an in-depth knowledge of specific orthopaedic traumatic conditions. It builds on module 1 and 11 and will equip the nurse with knowledge, skills and attitudes to acquire proficiency in nursing the patient who presents with a traumatic orthopaedic injury.

### Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, the student will be able to:

- Critically discuss the principles associated with the management of common orthopaedic traumatic injuries.
- Explore problem-solving skills in the area of orthopaedic trauma nursing.
- Prepare a comprehensive nursing care plan for patients with specific problems relating to their orthopaedic traumatic injuries & critically evaluate nursing interventions as they are applied to specific orthopaedic traumatic injuries.
- Use guided reflection to assess and build on knowledge levels and thus enhance their professional development.
- Recognise and use opportunities for promoting health within the clinical environment.

### Indicative Syllabus

- Applied anatomy
- Fractures of the femur / tibia / fibula / shoulder girdle / humerus / radius / ulna / hand
- Traumatic injuries of the spine / pelvis / knee / foot / ankle
- Complications of orthopaedic trauma (fat embolism, fracture blisters) and their nursing implications
- Tendon injuries and their management
- Peripheral nerve injuries and brachial plexus injuries
- Distinguishing between abuse / traumatic injury
- Health promotion in orthopaedics

**Teaching Learning Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact hours including face to face tutorials &amp; workshops</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment preparation</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent learning time</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>250</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination/Assessment Method</th>
<th>Type of Assessment (Continuous/Terminal)</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examination (Written)</td>
<td>Terminal</td>
<td>100%</td>
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**Indicative Reading**


**Additional reading material will be provided by individual lecturers**

**Date of Last Revision: December 2014**