

11% of all surgical cases performed during the pandemic lockdown. The introduction of a national instant messaging application (Siilo) referral group resulted in a median time to first response by a National Spinal Injuries Unit (NSIU) surgeon of 15.5 minutes.

**Conclusions:** The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the provision of a national spinal service, however innovative strategies have been adopted to protect the capacity to provide urgent care.

### 931 COVID-19 and the Irish National Spinal Injuries Unit: Impact on Service Provision and Strategies to Protect Urgent Care

F. Power, A. Juhdi, M. Macken, K.A. Synnott, J.S. Butler  
*Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin, Ireland*

**Introduction:** The COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on the provision of healthcare worldwide. The delivery of a national spinal service for emergent surgery, elective surgery and outpatient assessment has been incredibly challenging.

**Method:** Prospectively collected data regarding referrals to, and operative workload of, the Irish National Spinal Injuries Unit (NSIU) during the period of national lockdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic was compared to the same period in 2019.

**Results:** During the period of national lockdown there was a 47% decrease in the number of urgent referrals to the NSIU and a 61% reduction in the number of surgical cases performed. A particularly concerning finding was that for surgical cases there was a 400% increase in attempted suicide as the cause of injury with this cohort representing