

Appendix 3

In the total cohort, patients meeting the criteria for transfer to a burn unit are presented in Supplementary Table 1. In the PBS, inhalation injury is diagnosed by bronchoscopy and associated trauma included lacerations, head injury, crush injury, blunt abdominal trauma and fractures. Special area involvement included face in 384 (25%), hands in 430 (28%) feet in 189 (12%) and perineum in 72(4.7%) patients. The annual projected numbers of patients meeting transfer criteria within the province are presented in Supplementary Table 1.

Supplementary Table 1. Patients meeting criteria for transfer to a burn unit

	Number (%) of patients in PBR annually	Annual projected provincial numbers
Children under 1 year of age	136 (8.9)	757
Elderly	75 (11.1)	935
Special area burns	1 075 (69.7)	5 950
Inhalation injury	17 (1.1)	94
Escharotomy	48 (3.1)	264
Electrical burns	83 (5.4)	459
Chemical burns	16 (1)	85
Concomitant trauma	24 (1.6)	136

Supplementary Table 2. South African Burn Society criteria for transfer to a burn centre^[12]

<p>Burn injury patients who should be referred to a burn unit include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patients less than 1 year of age• Patients between the age of 1 and 2 years of age with burns > 5% TBSA• Patients older than 2 years with partial thickness burns greater than 10% TBSA• Full thickness burns• Burns to special areas – face, hands, feet, genitalia, perineum, or major joints• Electrical burns including lightning burns• Chemical burns• Inhalation injury• Circumferential burns of the limbs or chest• Patients with pre-existing medical disorders that could complicate management, prolong recovery, or affect mortality• Any patient with burns and concomitant trauma• Paediatric cases where abuse is suspected• Burn patients with treatment requirements exceeding the capabilities of the referring institution• Septic burn cases

TBSA: total body surface area.

