

1) Individuals should be excluded if they are likely to present problems with follow-up (refer to exclusion criteria).



2) At the time of randomization, as well as their own address and telephone number, each patient should provide the name and address of their primary care physician, and the name, address and phone number of three people at different addresses with whom the patient does not live with who are likely to be aware of the patient's whereabouts. The research coordinator should confirm that these numbers are accurate prior to the patient's discharge from hospital.



3) Whenever possible, participants should be given information on open extremity fractures, their complications and the potential treatment effects, expectations for personal benefit from study participation, and be encouraged for adherence with follow-up visits and research protocols.



4) The Study Coordinator should remind patients of upcoming clinic visits.



5) Study coordinator should contact patients no less than once every three months to maintain contact and obtain information about any planned change in residence.



6) If a patient refuses to return for a follow-up assessment, study surgeons and coordinator should determine his/her status with regard to revision surgery or any secondary outcome by phone contact with the patient or the patient's family physician