

Transfer to orthopaedics: hip fracture in a patient on warfarin



Assume that today's date is 21 October 2026 and the time is 13:00. The patient will be transferred by ambulance at 14:00. You are the doctor on duty at Millbrook District Hospital. Using the information in the case notes, write a letter to Dr Sophie Grant, the orthopaedic registrar at Kingsford Regional Hospital, who has accepted Mrs Kowalski for transfer and surgical management. Address the letter to Dr Sophie Grant, Orthopaedic Registrar, Kingsford Regional Hospital, 1 Hospital Drive, Kingsford. In your answer: expand the relevant notes into complete sentences; do not use note form; use letter format. The body of the letter should be approximately 180–200 words.

Choose one box per line: I = Include / C = Compress / O = Omit. Answers and reasons are on the webpage (scan QR).

	I	C	O		I	C	O
Patient details				Presentation 21/10/26			
1. Name: Mrs Edna Kowalski	☐	☐	☐	18. Unable to weight-bear; L leg shortened and externally rotated	☐	☐	☐
2. DOB: 30/09/1945 (81 yrs)	☐	☐	☐	19. Pain 8/10 on arrival	☐	☐	☐
3. Retired dairy farmer	☐	☐	☐	Examination & investigations			
Social background				20. HR 96 irregular; BP 142/80; T 36.4°C; GCS 15; alert, oriented	☐	☐	☐
4. Lives with husband (82, Parkinson's disease) — she is his main carer	☐	☐	☐	21. Small skin tear L forearm — dressed	☐	☐	☐
5. Pre-morbid: independent with ADLs; walking stick outdoors	☐	☐	☐	22. Hip X-ray: displaced intracapsular fracture L neck of femur	☐	☐	☐
6. Daughter lives interstate; grandchildren visit at Christmas	☐	☐	☐	23. INR 2.8 (09:30)	☐	☐	☐
7. Husband unable to stay home alone — pt very worried; local respite placement being arranged by social worker here	☐	☐	☐	24. Hb 118 g/L; eGFR 50 mL/min/1.73 m ² ; CK 610 U/L; BSL 9.2 mmol/L; weight 58 kg	☐	☐	☐
8. Neighbour feeding the dog	☐	☐	☐	25. ECG: AF, rate 96; CXR: clear	☐	☐	☐
Medical history				Management			
9. Atrial fibrillation — warfarin (target INR 2–3), dose 4 mg daily	☐	☐	☐	26. Warfarin withheld (last dose 20/10, 18:00)	☐	☐	☐
10. Hypertension — ramipril 5 mg daily	☐	☐	☐	27. Vitamin K 5 mg IV at 10:30	☐	☐	☐
11. Type 2 diabetes — metformin 500 mg BD; HbA1c 6.9% (Jul 2026)	☐	☐	☐	28. Repeat INR due approx. 16:30 (6 hrs post vitamin K)	☐	☐	☐
12. CKD stage 3a (baseline eGFR 52 mL/min/1.73 m ²)	☐	☐	☐	29. Ultrasound-guided fascia iliaca block by ED consultant (ropivacaine 0.2%, 30 mL) at 10:15 — pain now 3/10	☐	☐	☐
13. Mild cognitive impairment (MoCA 23/30, 2025)	☐	☐	☐	30. Paracetamol 1 g IV at 10:15 (QID); oxycodone 2.5 mg oral at 12:00	☐	☐	☐
14. Cholecystectomy 1990	☐	☐	☐	31. Fasting since 09:00	☐	☐	☐
15. Codeine intolerance (vomiting)	☐	☐	☐	32. IV 0.9% sodium chloride 80 mL/hr; metformin withheld	☐	☐	☐
Presentation 21/10/26				33. Pressure area care — heels offloaded	☐	☐	☐
16. 07:00 tripped on rug at home; no head strike, no LOC	☐	☐	☐	34. Pt upset about 2-hr wait for ambulance; asked how to make a complaint	☐	☐	☐
17. On floor approx. 2 hrs — husband unable to lift her; ambulance called	☐	☐	☐				