



Ref: 0697

Request:

Received: 06/06/2010

Good afternoon,

Very interested in your methods of training and in the device of « PARAMEDIC », we would have wished to create a partnership with you; axes of which are to be collectively defined. This one could be the item of educational exchange but also possible study trips.



Response:

Responded: 29/06/2010

Dear

Thank you for your request for information, placed under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

The London Ambulance Service NHS Trust covers 620 square miles and has over seventy operational ambulance sites.

Within London we have 7 dedicated Education and Development Centres for recruitment and development purposes. We also work in partnership with 3 local University sites that facilitate a 3 year foundation degree programme. In the future it is anticipated that all our recruited paramedics will come via the university route. Annually we employ approximately 60-70 paramedics from this group when they graduate. During the 3 year course they are expected to complete operational front line duties which are supervised.

Within the last two years we have embarked on an accelerated recruitment campaign to directly recruit circa 700 staff to the new role of Student Paramedic. Previously we recruited and trained Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) but we have now stopped delivering the EMT course training, which was completed by approximately 5 months training.

The Student Paramedic direct entry training is three years in duration. The initial 26 weeks is predominately classroom based with two short front line supervised placements (6 weeks in duration). There is also a three week ambulance driving course within this period. Below is a list of some of the main subjects covered during the 26 weeks that complement the basic ambulance aid syllabus

- Professional code of conduct.
- Acute coronary syndromes and Angioplasty
- Pain and Pain management
- The Global overview
- Taking a concise patient history
- Intubation assist with bougie
- Capnography
- Neurological assessment
- Concise history workshops
- Introduction to clinical decision making
- Major incidents. (based on specific roles)
- CBRN
- Bereavement



- Theory in Practice
- Respiratory assessment
- Abdominal assessment
- Cardiovascular assessment
- Combined assessment
- Catheter Lab visit
- Observed Structured Clinical Examination's

After the initial 26 weeks students are employed for 37hrs a week on front line ambulance duties. During year two of the programme they receive educational development in Sociology, Psychology, Health Promotion, Clinical Audit Research & Clinical Decision Making. This includes six days of classroom based theory followed by submission of an assignment.

Year three of the programme is the paramedic skills element and is 8 weeks classroom based education followed by four weeks in hospital which includes operating theatres and the Emergency Department.

Our existing and remaining EMTs can also progress to Paramedic status; we currently facilitate circa 140 places internally a year to support this progression. The programme is currently very similar to the year two education for Student Paramedics and includes 6 days class room based education followed by assignment submission. This is followed by the 12 week element mentioned in the above paragraph.

The development of paramedics in London is quite comprehensive and includes Anatomy & Physiology, Advanced Patient Assessment, enhanced Clinical Decision Making, Trauma and Obstetric and Paediatric emergencies. London paramedics can administer a range of resuscitation drugs (over 30 in total). They are trained in advanced airway management, including intubation. They are trained in 12 lead cardiac monitoring and can make the decision upon diagnosis to take patients direct to angioplasty special units. They are also trained in intra osseous techniques and needle chest decompression

We also have a supporting role to aid the front line EMTs, Student Paramedics and qualified Paramedics. The title for this role is Accident and Emergency support. This group of staff are recruited direct and are also trained in-house. They are only dispatched to a small number of emergency call determinants, which include abdominal pain, back problems and falls.

Finally we are also committed to delivering core refresher training for all our clinical staff that maintains and improves practice.

We are not in a position for to agree a partnership in the manner that you suggest but we are always prepared to consider an exchange visit as we have on many occasions with ambulance services around the world) and the sharing of information. For more details, please see http://www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/talking_with_us.aspx#visitus..



Yours sincerely

Gary Bassett

Head of Patient Experiences

London Ambulance Service NHS Trust