



Reference: 0664

Request:

Received: 04/03/2010

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you to request some information on the London Ambulance Service's change to do with the Ambulance Technicians employed with the London Ambulance Service over the next few years.

Yours truly

Response:

Responded: 29/03/2010

Dear

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

Please see attachment.

Yours sincerely



Attachment:

London Ambulance Service (LAS) Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT).

The LAS receives between 3500 – 4000 emergency calls per day, which makes us the busiest ambulance service in the UK, we cannot guarantee that a Paramedic will be available to attend an incident. However, we take the view that all operational staff are fully capable of dealing with any medical emergency.

New gradings for EMTs are to be applied to more accurately reflect the different roles and skill levels that the post involves. We believe this is consistent with the range of services we provide to patients, as new roles require different levels of knowledge and skills. The post of EMT1 reflects urgent care staff who have successfully completed the Urgent Care training course. EMT2 designates staff who are undertaking their first year of full A&E service post training school. EMT3 denotes staff who have successfully completed their first year of full A&E duties and the end of year Millar Assessment.

All operational staff have been trained in the in the use of the LifePak 12 defibrillator/monitor, enabling the identification of acute coronary syndromes and to alert the hospital of the patient's arrival via CAS MEET priority alert calls (a protocol regarding patient information), so that prompt treatment can be undertaken. The training contains the following elements:

- Use of the LifePak 12
- Acquisition of a 12-Lead ECG
- Understanding the normal 12-Lead ECG
- Identification of acute coronary syndromes on the 12-Lead ECG
- Identification of common 12-Lead ECGs that may be confused with an acute coronary syndrome

Paramedics have additional skills in relation to intubation, intravenous cannulation (including External Jugular Vein cannulation in cardiac arrest), Paediatric Advanced Life Support (including intra-osseous infusion) and needle chest decompression. Both EMT3s and paramedics can 'recognise death'. Paramedics may terminate resuscitation when appropriate - EMT3s may not. Training Paramedics in needle cricothyroidotomy has commenced and will continue with yearly updates



Paramedics are also empowered to administer a number of Prescription Only Medicines, including Adrenaline (Epinephrine) 1/10000; Atropine; Benzylpenicillin; Diazepam; Furosemide; Glucose 10%; Lidocaine; Metoclopramide; Naluphine Hydrochloride (Nubain); Naloxene Hydrochloride (Narcan); Sodium Chloride 10%; Syntometrine and Tramadol.

All staff may administer Adrenaline (Epinephrine) 1:1000, Aspirin, Entonox, Glucagon, Glucose Gel (Hypostop), GTN, Salbutamol and Oxygen.

Paramedic training is available to EMTs with one year's post-qualification experience at the time of application. Candidates have to be interviewed and sponsored by their Ambulance Operations Manager and ambulance station complex Training Officer. Prior to the start of the Paramedic Training course, candidates must have acquired the full range of authorised emergency medical technician skills, to include defibrillation and the administration of Salbutamol, Aspirin, GTN, Epinephrine 1:1000 and Glucagon.

You can complete a paramedic science degree at either Kingston –
http://www.kingston.ac.uk/~kx25594/press/press_archive/2004/nov/paramedic.htm

or Hertfordshire University

http://perseus.herts.ac.uk/uhinfo/prospectus/faculty_hh/dep_ahp/mg_paramedic/c_paramedic_sciences_with_paramedic_award_foundation_degree.cfm

Further information is also available on our website –

<http://www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/careers/careers1.html>

All LAS Paramedics are registered by the Health Professionals Council, and as such are covered by their Code of Conduct Performance and Ethics. Their scope of practice is also laid out in the Standards of Proficiency for Paramedics. Both of these and other documents of interest are available at the HPC website at www.hpc-uk.org

Emergency Care Practitioners (ECPs) provide patients with minor illnesses and injuries with the most appropriate forms of care whilst also saving unnecessary ambulance journeys. They respond to some of the lowest priority 999 calls when it is suspected the patient may not need, or even wish, to go to hospital.



Once with the patient, the ECP carries out a thorough examination and then explains the follow-up treatment. They are able to find patients the most appropriate care – for example, pharmacies and minor injuries units, eye clinics, Meals on Wheels, Social Services, etc. ECPs can transport patients in their people carrier vehicles or contact local health professionals to arrange home visits. Other frontline staff can request an ECP attends an incident in the areas ECPs are operating via the Sector Desk in Central Ambulance Control.

ECPs undergo extensive additional clinical education at St Georges Medical School and the course includes modules in physical assessment, differential diagnosis, minor illness, minor injuries, paediatrics, applied pharmacology and chronic conditions. The course is modularised and can be taken at a pace to fit in with family and other commitments, and builds towards a Diploma – Emergency Care Practitioner - from the Medical School. You do not need a Paramedic Science degree to apply and EMTs with four years A&E experience are eligible to do so. At the end of the Diploma the candidate will undertake a paramedic specific module and be formally registered.

Currently there are two schemes operating in Wandsworth and Croydon but plans are underway to extend that to other regions. The latest results from Croydon indicate that only 40% of patients seen by ECPs needed to be taken to an A&E department. In over 80% of cases seen by ECPs no ambulance is required.

More information about ECPs is available by contacting eep@london.com