

Scotland's PHEM Subspecialty Programme



Scotland's Emergency Medical Retrieval Service (EMRS) provides rapid access to critical care and safe transfer to definitive care for patients with life threatening injuries and illness. Our aim is to provide equity of access to life saving care irrespective of the patient's location. Due to the geography, weather and variety of healthcare facilities in Scotland, our service is highly specialised which offers a unique PHEM training experience.

The EMRS initially came into existence as a Government funded pilot project to provide a retrieval service to remote and rural locations in Scotland. It has evolved significantly over the past 15 years and now provides the following services from a bespoke facility at Glasgow Airport as the adult retrieval component of ScotSTAR, the Scottish National Retrieval Service:

- Consultant and Retrieval Practitioner delivered aeromedical retrieval from rural health care facilities throughout Scotland.
- Pre-hospital critical care of major trauma patients
- Multiple casualty major incident management and critical care
- Telemedicine advice to rural health care colleagues
- Rural facility outreach training
- Research in pre-hospital and retrieval medicine
- Post graduate training in pre-hospital and retrieval medicine

There are 32 retrieval consultants from Emergency Medicine, Anaesthetic and Intensive Care Medicine backgrounds and 8 Retrieval Practitioners. We have also developed the Acute Critical Care Paramedic role who work closely alongside these teams.

We provide a consultant led response with 3 duty teams providing trauma cover 16 hours per day (0700 – 2300) from base and a retrieval service 24 hours per day. We retrieve approximately 300 critically unwell patients per annum with over 600 advice calls and attend approximately 900 trauma patients per year. We respond by rapid response vehicle, rotary wing and fixed wing aircraft.

The EMRS is committed to research in the field of PreHospital and Retrieval Medicine. We have an Associate Professor responsible for research and a Clinical Research Fellow. The EMRS runs the annual Retrieval Conference which is an internationally renown conference with approximately 200 delegates per year. The EMRS, in conjunction with the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh, host the Diploma of Retrieval and Transfer Medicine.

In August 2021 we will see the Major Trauma Network roll out in the West of Scotland. The EMRS have been pivotal in the inception and planning MTN with many of our consultants base hospital at the MTC. The Scottish Ambulance Service and the EMRS are key in providing high quality trauma care to the population of Scotland and this role will be increasingly important as the major trauma network develops.

PHEM Training

Since 2017 the EMRS, in conjunction with London's Air Ambulance Service, has contributed to PHEM training in the UK and has successfully helped six trainees achieve CCT in PHEM.

From 2022 we will offer a 12 month, Scheme C PHEM Subspecialty Training in Scotland.

We will offer a unique clinical experience of Primary, Secondary and Major Incident missions, as well as advice and training to remote and rural clinicians. We compliment this clinical experience with a strong educational faculty which provides daily training in the form of simulation, drills, lectures and small group learning.

There are fortnightly D&D meetings which are an excellent opportunity to debrief and learn from difficult cases and quarterly Clinical Governance Meetings where complex cases are evaluated and learning points generated.

We host IPSP multiagency training opportunities, training days with local Mountain Rescue Teams, and training with local Specialist Operations Response Teams (SORT).

We share a base with the Specialist Paediatric and Neonatal Transfer Teams and regularly train with them. This offers a great opportunity to provide in-depth training opportunities to cover paediatric and neonatal aspects of the PHEM curriculum.

There are also multiple opportunities for service development in the form of Quality Improvement projects. Recent projects which our PHEM trainees have been involved with are the 'EMRS Body Worn Camera Project,' 'Calcium in Blood Transfusion' and 'GoodSAM App' QIPs which have the potential for significant service and patient benefit.

Feedback from trainees is that we are a supportive team who provide an excellent variety of clinical and non-clinical experience in a beautiful part of the world. We are excited by the opportunity to offer these experiences in a Scottish PHEM subspecialty training programme.



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