

Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine in Wales

Sub-specialty training in Pre-hospital Emergency Medicine (PHEM)

These posts provide an opportunity for senior training grade doctors (ST 5-7) in Emergency Medicine, Anaesthesia or Intensive Care Medicine to undertake sub-specialty training in Pre-hospital Emergency Medicine within professionally supported and well-governed clinical services. It is aimed at those individuals whose long-term career aspirations involve a significant component of Pre-hospital Emergency Care work. Successful completion of the training programme will allow for sub-specialty accreditation in Pre-hospital Emergency Medicine.

This should be read in conjunction with the Intercollegiate Board for Training in Pre-hospital Emergency Medicine (IBTPHEM). Guidance is available on their website - www.ibtphem.org.uk

PHEM Training in Wales

Three PHEM posts are offered. One Scheme C and two Scheme A (Emergency Medicine base specialty).

Trainees will be employed by National Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP).

Training will be undertaken with the Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service Cymru (EMRTS) in partnership with the Wales Air Ambulance Charity. This will include training and time spent with ACCTS Cymru who are the nationally commissioned service for transfers in Wales. A further proportion of training time is spent with the Physician Response Unit (PRU) run by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board in partnership with the Welsh Ambulance Service (WAST).

This will involve working across the whole of Wales at all the EMRTS and ACCTS bases and out of The Grange University Hospital, Cwmbran (for PRU shifts), which allows trainees to achieve both urban and rural exposure in critical care as well as Community Emergency Medicine and inter-hospital transfer work.

The trainee will be trained by the full range of pre-hospital medical staff including Doctors, Paramedics and Nurses with appropriate qualifications and expertise. The trainee will always work under the supervision or mentorship of an experienced provider in the pre-hospital environment.



Further Details

Month 1 Induction – This includes elements of mandatory training, a place on the National Induction Course, familiarisation with the PRU, Clinical Contact Centre and Air Ambulance; and simulation teaching and testing, as well as familiarisation shifts with EMRTS in South Wales.

Month 2-6 (Phase 1b) – Trainees will have shifts with the various local education providers (EMRTS, ACCTS and PRU). Time spent will be predominantly in South Wales. Regular training days are provided across these services and in collaboration with other regional critical care services.

Month 6-12 – Subject to success in the Phase 1 National Summative Assessment and local competency assessment, trainees will progress to Phase 2, undertaking an increasing number of remotely supervised shifts in both North and South Wales.



All EMRTS taskings are co-ordinated by the Air Support Desk which is staffed by an EMRTS Critical Care Practitioner and an experienced WAST dispatcher to ensure the most appropriate targeted allocations.

Supervision for the trainees is provided on several levels. During Phase 1, trainees will be directly supervised by an experienced EMRTS or PRU consultant. Once Phase 1 is successfully complete, trainees will have increasing “solo” shifts working as a clinical team of two with a Critical Care Practitioner/Paramedic, with the 24-hour support of a top cover consultant providing remote advice.

The trainees in Wales will gain a vast amount of experience by working with EMRTS Cymru – it means that the PHEM trainee can work from any of the 4 EMRTS bases, with excellent exposure to the different challenges of urban and very rural taskings as well as a significant proportion of time-critical inter-hospital transfer work. This, combined with PRU and ACCTS plus opportunities to undertake night shifts on an EMRTS car and aircraft, offers the whole gamut of pre-hospital experience. In addition, EMRTS has a very active governance structure and Research and Development portfolio which trainees will be strongly encouraged to participate in, with several pre-hospital CV-building opportunities. For further information visit www.emrts.wales.nhs.uk

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