

Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine Sub-specialty training West Midlands



The West Midlands is renowned nationally for having a well-established effective pre-hospital medical system. This includes the highest performing NHS Ambulance Foundation Trust in the UK; two air ambulance services flying five helicopters across the region, three active BASICS schemes; and a fully commissioned 24/7 Consultant-led MERIT service.

What makes the West Midlands unique is that all of the services above (along with our partner agencies including West Midlands Fire Service, and the West Midlands Police) have agreed to fully collaborate in this programme to ensure that your training is of a standard that is unrivalled.

We have successfully supported PHEM training since February 2013. We can provide sub-specialty training for doctors from an Emergency Medicine, Anaesthetics or Intensive Care Medicine background and offer Less Than Full Time (LTFT) training.

The core specialty training is provided by an annual rotation between the Major Trauma Centre's in the region: at University Hospital North Midlands in Stoke, University Hospital Birmingham, and University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust, where our PHEM Educational Supervisors are co-located. All posts are banded.

The majority of our current trainees are following a blended 'Scheme A' PHEM training scheme over two years. Scheme B is offered to some trainees after discussion with their parent specialty TPD in 3 or 6 month blocks. Scheme C training is currently only funded for LTFT trainees.

Each base hospital placement is linked to certain pre-hospital organizations and rotates after one year to ensure a good coverage of pre-hospital experience and exposure. Our previous PHEM trainees have achieved a high level of clinical supervision, patient numbers, and sentinel interventions (RSI and procedural sedations). All pre-hospital services offer day air ambulance shifts and night car shifts. Both air ambulance organisations participate in pre-hospital research and high-level clinical governance.

Our vacancies for August 2020 are:

1. Royal Stoke University Hospital (Midlands Air Ambulance and MERIT) rotating after one year to University Hospital Coventry (The Air Ambulance Service, Coventry & East Midlands Airport).
2. University Hospital Coventry (The Air Ambulance Service, Coventry & East Midlands Airport) rotating after one year to Royal Stoke University Hospital (Midlands Air Ambulance & MERIT).

Our vacancies for Feb 2021 are:

1. Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham (Midlands Air Ambulance and MERIT) rotating after one year to University Hospital Coventry (The Air Ambulance Service, Coventry & East Midlands Airport).
2. University Hospital Coventry (The Air Ambulance Service, Coventry & East Midlands Airport) rotating after one year to Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham (Midlands Air Ambulance and MERIT).

Opportunities are available for specialized training with NARU, Mountain Rescue in Derbyshire; KIDS Paediatric Retrieval Service in Birmingham, working at height and PLATO training with HART; and extrication training with West Midlands Fire Service.

Our trainees start their PHEM sub-specialty programme with a four-week period of intensive Phase 1a training. This includes an introduction to our ambulance service and trauma network with observer shifts, classroom-based teaching, simulation, and funded attendance at the national PHEM induction residential course every August. The rota in Phase 1b on the land and air-based platforms includes a good level of clinical supervision, which facilitates easy completion of work based assessments and local sign-off for the pre-hospital training platform. In Phase 2 our trainees are working as pre-hospital doctors with a rota of remote supervision by PHEM Consultants (maintaining at least 20% of shifts directly supervised).

In the West Midlands, the trainees are given time to attend and participate in the monthly governance/M&M days for the organizations in the region. We have dedicated, accessible Consultant PHEM Educational Supervisors on all training platforms and more than 12 examiners in the region for the Diploma and Fellowship of Immediate Medical Care examination. Our pre-hospital organisations provide simulation and there is access to high-quality cadaveric surgical skills training locally.

The quality of the training, support and integration in our region are points that we are all extremely proud of and continue to develop with the help of our existing PHEM trainees. If you are interested in PHEM sub-specialty training in the West Midlands you can contact myself, or we can put you in touch with one of our current PHEM trainees to find out more.

I wish you the best of luck with your PHEM sub-specialty training application.

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