

Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine Sub-specialty training West Midlands



Background to West Midlands PHEM

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

Why choose our PHEM training programme

Clinical exposure – Our PHEM trainees have achieved excellent patient numbers and sentinel intervention rates (RSI, procedural sedations, thoracotomies). Some of our trainees have even performed prehospital amputations, surgical airways and peri-mortem hysterotomies! Proof of the varied and excellent clinical exposure our programme offers.

Experienced trainers – We were one of the first deaneries to offer PHEM training in Feb 2013. You will be supervised by very experienced PHEM Consultants who have a wealth of experience in training and mentoring PHEM doctors.

Retrieval experience – Our trainees get dedicated training time with either the KIDS (paediatric intensive care retrieval service) or the Adult Critical Care Retrieval service. This helps widen your experience and cover elements of the curriculum that relate to retrieval medicine.

Exam success – We run focused training in the weeks running up to the exams and have an excellent first pass success rate in the FIMC and DIMC.

IBTPHEM course – All trainees are sent on the national IBTPHEM courses with deanery funding.

Both Air Ambulances participate in prehospital research and trainees are fully involved in recruiting to trials. Trainees are given time to attend and participate in the monthly governance/M&M days for organisations in the region.

Our pre-hospital organisations provide simulation on base and there is access to high-quality cadaveric surgical skills training locally.

Opportunities are available for specialized training with NARU, HART and mountain rescue.

The rotation and training partners

We can provide sub-specialty training for doctors from an Emergency Medicine, Anaesthesia or Intensive Care Medicine background and offer Less Than Full Time (LTFT) training.

Trainees are based at one of the three adult Major Trauma Centres (MTC) in the region: University Hospital North Midlands in Stoke, University Hospital Birmingham or University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire. Each hospital placement is linked to a specific pre-hospital organisation. All trainees rotate through the MERIT service based in Birmingham.

Midlands Air Ambulance (MAA) – Cover 6 counties in the Midlands with airbases at Cosford, Tatenhill and Strensham. Operate using 3 helicopters and critical care response cars.

The Air Ambulance Service (TAAS) – Operate 24/7 from bases in Coventry airport and Nottingham heliport using 2 helicopters and critical care response cars.

MERIT – Consultant delivered PHEM critical care service, MERIT are part of West Midlands Ambulance Service. Operate a 24/7 land-based service from their base in central Birmingham.

Less Than Full Time (LTFT) training – Our programme supports LTFT training provided it is approved through the HEE LTFT application process. LTFT is offered at either a 60% or 70% working pattern. Once LTFT is approved, the trainee's rotation is changed from a Scheme A to a Scheme C programme ie training only in PHEM. While every effort will be taken to accommodate fixed day working, this cannot be guaranteed.

Vacancy for August 2023:

Post 1 – A two-year 'scheme A' rotation based at the University Hospital Birmingham NHS Trust with PHEM placements with MAA and MERIT

Vacancies for Feb 2024:

Post 2 – A two-year 'scheme A' rotation based at the University Hospital of Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust with PHEM placements with TAAS and MERIT.

Post 3 – A two-year 'scheme A' rotation based at the University Hospital of North Midlands with PHEM placements with MAA and MERIT.

If you are interested in PHEM training in the West Midlands, it's worth getting in touch to find out more. You can contact myself or I can put you in touch with one of our current trainees.

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

Dr Arun George

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