

The functions of the Council against Statutory Instrument 109/2000 and Amendment Order 575/2004 (Composite)

Article 4

Education and Training

- (a) recognise, in accordance with the rules made by the Council, institutions providing education and training to persons pursuing the award of the N.Q.E.M.T. at the level of competence of emergency medical technician, paramedic or advanced paramedic, as the case may be.
- (e) upon request, advise the Minister, health boards, other Government Departments, public sector employers and other employers of recognised courses.
- (f) advise the Minister, recognised institutions and such other persons as it may consider appropriate of the standards which should inform education and training in relation to pre-hospital emergency care.
- (g) advise the Minister of the specific content of recognised courses.
- (h)
 - (i) in consultation with recognised institutions providing education and training to persons pursuing the award of N.Q.E.M.T., approve of the content of courses for such education and training.
 - (ii) in consultation with institutions providing, or proposing to provide at any time in the future, education and training in pre-hospital emergency care, approve of the content of courses for such education and training.
- (i) assess from time to time, as occasion may require, but in any event not less than once in every three years-
 - (i) the suitability of the education and training in pre-hospital emergency care provided by an institution recognised by the Council for such purpose.
 - (ii) the standards of theoretical and practical knowledge required for qualifications in pre-hospital emergency care.

Examinations and Registration

- (b) conduct examinations leading to the award of the N.Q.E.M.T. at the level of competence of emergency medical technician, paramedic or advanced paramedic, as the case may be.
- (c) award the N.Q.E.M.T to such persons as have completed a recognised course under sub-article (h)(i) in a recognised institution and have passed the relevant examination conducted by the Council pursuant to sub-article (b) of this Article.
- (d) upon request, assess the equivalence of professional qualifications in pre-hospital emergency care obtained from institutions other than recognised institutions, both within and outside the State, and award the N.Q.E.M.T. as appropriate at the level of competence determined by the Council.
- (j) maintain, in accordance with the rules made by the Council, a record of holders of the N.Q.E.M.T.
- (l) maintain, in accordance with the rules made by the Council, a record of holders of non-national qualifications.
- (n) subject to any data protection legislation in force, maintain statistical records and make such records available for research and planning, including manpower planning purposes.
- (s) establish and maintain, in accordance with rules made by the Council, a register of pre-hospital emergency care practitioners (in this instrument referred to as the register) who are holders of the N.Q.E.M.T. at the level of competence of emergency medical technician, paramedic or advanced paramedic, as the case may be, which register shall be divided into three divisions which shall be known as the emergency medical technician division, the paramedic division and the advanced paramedic division.

Research

- (m) engage in research into pre-hospital emergency care, including emerging technology, education and training, the formulation of experimental curricula, and the evaluation of existing courses and assessment and examination procedures.

Clinical Practice Guidelines

- (o) prepare clinical practice guidelines for pre-hospital emergency care and make such guidelines available to pre-hospital emergency care service providers and such other persons as it may consider appropriate.
- (q) prepare standards of operation for pre-hospital emergency care service providers to support best practice by pre-hospital emergency care practitioners.
- (r) recognise, in accordance with rules made by Council, those pre-hospital emergency care service providers which undertake to implement the clinical practice guidelines prepared pursuant to sub-article (o) of this Article.

Other Tasks & Functions

- (p) undertake such other appropriate tasks and functions as may, from time to time, be assigned to the Council by the Minister.

Article 37

Fitness to Practice

- (1) The Council may establish a Fitness to Practise Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee), consisting of such persons (whether members or non-members of the Council) as may be appointed by the Council, to conduct inquiries into allegations of professional misconduct or unfitness (or both) to engage in the practice of pre-hospital emergency care on the part of persons whose names are entered on the register.
- (2) Following the completion of such an inquiry, the Committee shall embody its findings in a report to the Council specifying therein the nature of the allegation, the evidence laid before it and its opinion as to the alleged professional misconduct or fitness to practise or both of the pre-hospital emergency care practitioner, as the case may be.
- (3) The Council shall consider the report of the Committee and the Council may if a finding of professional misconduct or unfitness to practise has been made, do any or all of the following:
 - (i) determine that the pre-hospital emergency care practitioner should be advised, admonished or censured.
 - (ii) make its determination or the report of the Committee or both available to such persons as it may think appropriate.