

Strategic Plan 2002 - 2005



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INTRODUCTION

The Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council is an independent statutory agency charged with responsibility for standards, education and training in the field of pre-hospital emergency care in Ireland.

The Council was established as a body corporate by the Minister for Health and Children in April 2000 by Statutory Instrument Number 109 of 2000. This Order was made under the Health (Corporate Bodies) Act, 1961 as amended.



Comhairle Chúram Éigeandála Reamhospidéil

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council exists to specify, review, maintain and monitor standards of excellence for the delivery of pre-hospital emergency care for people in Ireland



COUNCIL FUNCTIONS OBJECTIVES

1. To ensure training institutions and course content in Emergency Medical Technology reflect contemporary best practice.
2. To ensure pre-hospital emergency care providers achieve and maintain competency at the appropriate performance standard.
3. To sponsor and promote the implementation of best practice guidelines in pre-hospital emergency care.
4. To source and sponsor relevant research to guide Council directions and the development of pre-hospital emergency care.
5. To recommend other pre-hospital emergency care standards as appropriate



COUNCIL GOVERNANCE OBJECTIVE

1. To ensure that Council, its functions and processes remain current and relevant to the development of contemporary pre-hospital emergency care.



ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OBJECTIVES

1. To maintain appropriate administration and information systems to provide a professional level of support for Council functions.
2. To ensure a highly professional and efficient workforce.
3. To maintain an adequate level of funding to meet current and future requirements.

To ensure training institutions and course content in Emergency Medical Technology reflect contemporary best practice.

STRATEGIES

1. Implement a rigorous accreditation process for the recognition of training institutions and approval of course content for Emergency Medical Technician training.
2. Review the 1995 NAAC Standards for the recognition of training institutions including the incorporation of criteria for teaching faculty and a requirement for affiliation with a medical or nursing school.
3. Review the curriculum for all Emergency Medical Technician training in the 1995 NAAC Standards taking into consideration core curriculum as well as driver training and ambulance service induction components.
4. Promote the development of innovative approaches to conversion and bridging courses in particular, and education and training in Emergency Medical Technology in general.
5. Obtain policy approval from the Minister and Department of Health and Children for the implementation of Emergency Medical Technician Advanced training.
6. Facilitate the preparedness of training institution(s) to train to the Emergency Medical Technician Advanced performance standard.
7. Develop a curriculum for Emergency Medical First Responders.
8. Develop a curriculum for Emergency Medical Controllers.

To ensure pre-hospital emergency care providers achieve and maintain competency at the appropriate performance standard.

STRATEGIES

1. Develop and implement a National Examination for Emergency Medical Technicians at the completion of new entrant training.
2. Develop and implement a process for recognition of qualifications in Emergency Medical Technology obtained outside the state – initially at Emergency Medical Technician level.
3. Explore Council's authority to implement an analogous process for recognition of qualifications in Emergency Medical Technology obtained within the state.
4. Explore the development and implementation of a "PHECC register" of holders of the National Qualification in Emergency Medical Technology and associated provisions encompassing:
 - Code of Practice
 - Clinical Audit
 - Training/Mentoring
 - Record Keeping
 - Continuing Professional Development requirements
 - Fitness to Practice
5. Review proprietary courses of a national standard that are relevant to pre-hospital emergency care and incorporate them as appropriate in the Continuing Professional Development process.
6. Develop and implement a National Examination for Emergency Medical Technician Advanced, Emergency Medical First Responder and Emergency Medical Controllers.
7. Ensure congruence with EU Directives and position Council to become a designated Competent Authority.
8. Pursue recognition of the National Examination and the National Qualification in Emergency Medical Technology in other jurisdictions.
9. Explore the feasibility and merit of awarding a National Qualification in Emergency Medical Technology to medical practitioners.
10. Ensure the voluntary sector is incorporated into these strategies as appropriate.

To sponsor and promote the implementation of best practice guidelines in pre-hospital emergency care.

STRATEGIES

1. Review, update and expand on the Standard Operating Procedures implemented June 2001, to be renamed Clinical Practice Guidelines.
2. Review the regulations regarding the administration of medications and recommend appropriate amendments to authorise appropriate administration by holders of the National Qualification in Emergency Medical Technology.
3. Develop Advanced Operating Procedures to support the Emergency Medical Technician Advanced performance standard, also to be known as Clinical Practice Guidelines.
4. Develop capability bypass protocols in certain specialist care areas of pre-hospital emergency care.
5. Investigate the merits of priority despatch systems and make generic recommendations on their implementation.
6. Explore the commonality between Standard Operating Procedures, priority despatch systems and pre-arrival advice utilised by Ambulance Services and analogous systems utilised by Afterhours General Practitioner Co-operatives and identify opportunities for recommending a congruent approach.
7. Ensure the voluntary sector is incorporated into these strategies as appropriate.
8. Explore the development of best practice Emergency Medical First Responder and Public Access Defibrillation models in keeping with the 'Chain of Survival'.

COUNCIL FUNCTIONS

OBJECTIVE 4

To source and sponsor relevant research to guide Council directions and the development of pre-hospital emergency care.

STRATEGIES

1. Identify and promote relevant existing research.
2. Commission appropriate research in areas of priority.
3. Explore opportunities for research partnerships.
4. Explore opportunities for obtaining research funding.

COUNCIL FUNCTIONS

OBJECTIVE 5

To recommend other pre-hospital emergency care standards as appropriate

STRATEGIES

1. Facilitate the development of a national Patient Report Forms and an electronic template with an agreed minimum data set, and item definitions.
2. Develop response time standards that incorporate time and clinical need parameters, appropriate to Ireland
3. Review cross-sectoral guidelines developed for Major Events by the Department of Education and others and make recommendations as appropriate.
4. Establish what, if any, statutory parameters exist in relation to use of the term "Emergency Ambulance" and make recommendations as appropriate.

COUNCIL GOVERNANCE

OBJECTIVE 1

To ensure that Council, its functions and processes remain relevant to the development of contemporary pre-hospital emergency care.

STRATEGIES

1. Review the Statutory Instrument and make recommendations every three years and when the need or opportunity arises.
2. Review the membership of the Council on an ongoing basis and make recommendations as appropriate in regard to the medium and longer term.
3. Review the membership and terms of reference of Council's Standing Committees and Medical Advisory Group.
4. Develop a strategic and effective working relationship with Health Board Executive (HeBE) and its Ambulance Project when established.
5. Develop key partners, and communication and consultation strategies with the health industry and broader community.
6. Subscribe to and comply with the Code of Practice for Governance of State Bodies as issued by the Department of Finance.
7. Take a proactive approach in informing the public on matters relating to the functions of Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

OBJECTIVE 1

To maintain appropriate administration and information systems to provide a professional level of support for Council functions.

STRATEGIES

1. To implement a Quality Management system to ISO accreditation standard so as to ensure continuous quality improvement in all areas of Council support.
2. Exploit appropriate information and communication technology to maximise benefit in support of Council functions.
3. Promote an appropriate environment within the PHECC office, which fully exploits the intellectual capital of the staff within the organisation.
4. Devolve appropriate authorities and responsibilities to staff at all levels within the office consistent with clearly defined guidelines and delegations.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

OBJECTIVE 2

To ensure a highly professional and efficient workforce

STRATEGIES

1. Ensure staffing levels and skills base meet current and developing office requirements.
2. Implement effective Human Resource Management strategies (recruitment, orientation, performance appraisal, exit interviews etc) to meet statutory and personnel requirements.
3. Provide staff development and training opportunities to meet current and future job requirements of all staff.
4. Maintain a productive work environment that enables employees to maximise their contribution to and satisfaction from their role in the organisation.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

OBJECTIVE 3

To maintain an adequate level of funding to meet current and future requirements.

STRATEGIES

1. Initiate and maintain positive relationships with Department of Health & Children.
2. Introduce charging of fees for services provided to individuals and institutions, where appropriate.
3. Explore opportunities for obtaining funds for specific purposes from other sources.
4. Maximise opportunities to promote and elevate health industry and community profile by communication, consultation and public relations initiatives.

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