

HSE West Ambulance Officers made Honorary Clinical Fellows of NUI Galway

In recognition of their contribution to the undergraduate teaching programme at NUI Galway, three Ambulance Officers from the HSE West area have been made Honorary Clinical Fellows of the University.

The Ambulance Officers, Gabriel Glynn, Vincent O'Connor and PJ Commins, were involved in establishing and delivering an innovative special study module in pre-hospital emergency care to second year NUI Galway medical students under the direction of the University's Dr Gerard Flaherty, Lecturer in Medical Education and Clinical Skills and Coordinator of the Special Study Module programme.

The pre-hospital emergency care module provides students with basic training in immediate care such as basic life support and spinal immobilisation. The students are also given an opportunity to accompany paramedic crews on routine and emergency calls in the capacity of supervised observers. The students benefit by developing a greater understanding of the challenges of pre-hospital emergency care and a deeper appreciation

of the role of multidisciplinary team members in an emergency environment.

Commenting on the success of the pre-hospital emergency care module, NUI Galway's Dr. Flaherty said, "Feedback from the module has been overwhelmingly positive to date and it has been the most popular choice of module for second year students over the two years that it has been running. The module is another excellent example of seamless and fruitful partnership between the HSE and the School of Medicine. Both groups will benefit greatly from this academic initiative."

Chief Ambulance Officer, HSE West, Mr. Paudie O Riordan said, "The Ambulance Service places great value on the relationship that has built up over the two years with our colleagues in the School



From left: Gabriel Glynn, Vincent O'Connor, PJ Commins and Dr Gerard Flaherty, Lecturer in Medical Education and Clinical Skills and Coordinator of the Special Study Module programme.

of Medicine at NUI Galway. The relationship has benefited the Ambulance Service greatly and we are delighted at the positive response from the students."

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PHECC's Quality Management System to receive ISO 9001: 2008 standard recognition

PHECC is set to join the very select club of Irish public sector organisations by achieving ISO 9001: 2008 certification for its Quality Management System (QMS). Meeting this standard requires us to clearly document how we work as an organisation; this includes, mapping processes, setting performance targets and making sure that we continually improve.

This certification recognises our commitment to rigorous quality management in administrative processes, project planning and service delivery to our stakeholders. We are committed to total client satisfaction by providing effective, efficient, quality-driven services. We are further committed to a policy of continuing quality improvement through identification of further areas for development which support our ongoing efforts to fulfill rising client needs. For our stakeholders, this certification provides formal recognition of our quality approach and thus enhances our transparency.

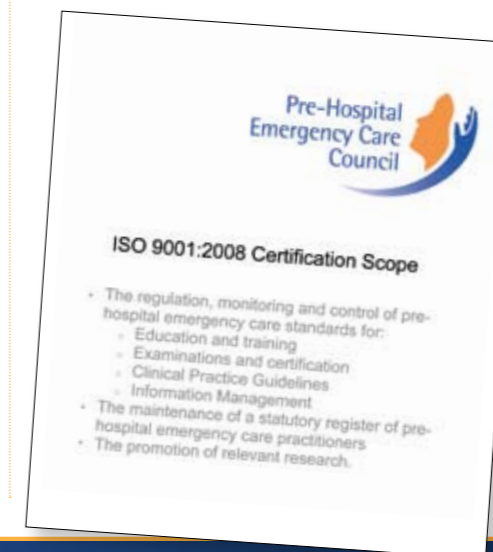
Traditionally, quality initiatives were uniquely a matter for industry, but in the last few years service organisations have embraced this concept as well. We approached this QMS initiative as an opportunity to re-examine our systems and to re-evaluate how these systems are serving the needs of our clients while collaboratively embracing the opportunity to implement improvements where needed.

The collective effort made by everybody in the PHECC team to design, distribute and deploy a quality management system has had a tangible effect on day-to-day activities. High-level commitment is paramount to the successful implementation of a QMS. The success of our ISO initiative was made possible by the leadership, management, resource commitment and involvement of the PHECC team at all levels.

We appreciate that the certificate is not a goal in itself but only the first step in a continuous improvement approach that has already made a significant contribution to PHECC's service delivery. We look forward to phase 2 of this initiative and to ongoing service delivery improvements.

Our thanks to Mr Michael Jordan, Jordan Business Solutions, www.jbs.ie for assisting us in taking this initial step in our quality management process. His expertise and support helped make our QMS project an enjoyable experience.

Special thanks also to the SGS Group, worldwide ISO certification body for their audit and certification of our Quality Management System.



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Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council



KEEGAN'S KRIS KINDLE
 A fundraiser for John Keegan Advanced Paramedic, Thurs 11th November at The Martello Night Club, Bray.
 Table quiz from 8.30. Entertainment will be provided by Paul Keegan and his band. Finger food will be served.
 Tickets €10 contact David Dixon 086 3652707, Françoise Coussay 086 8296329, or Kevin Deitrich 086 8440320.
 All proceeds to John and his family. Donations are welcome.

CISM Guide for Emergency Personnel

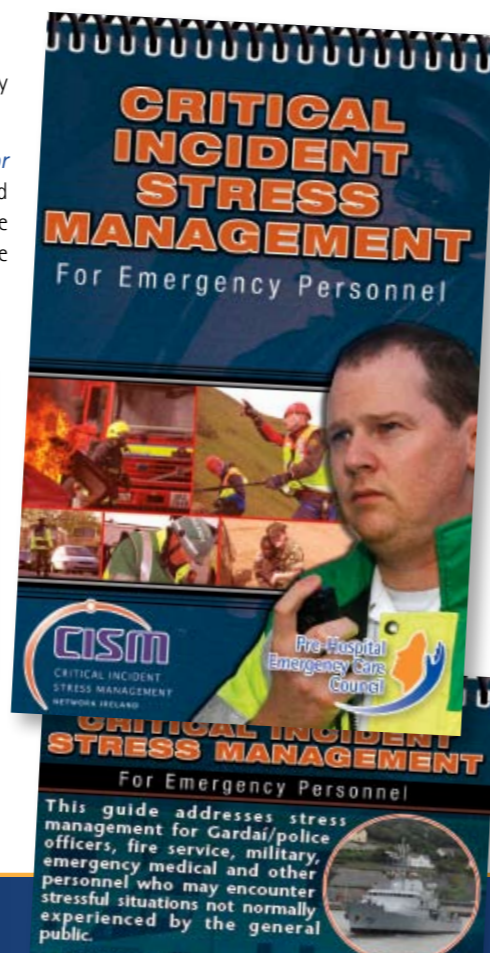
PHECC funds and supports the work of the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) project. CISM have recently published a guide titled *Critical Incident Stress Management for Emergency Personnel*. This pocket-size publication is aimed at Irish emergency personnel and addresses stress management for EMS staff, Gardaí, fire services, military and other personnel who may encounter

stressful situations not normally experienced by the general public.

The *Critical Incident Stress Management for Emergency Personnel* guide was officially launched on October 19th in NUI Maynooth. Copies of the guide will be made available through service providers.

Synopsis of the CISM Guide

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature of stress • What is stress? • Stress paths • PTSD and contributing factors • Sources of stress • Signs of stress • Dangerous signs of stress • Stress survival skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stress control for life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diet - Exercise - Smoking - Positive Mental attitude - Spirituality - Relaxation - Progressive muscle relaxation • The satisfying side of stress • Conditions requiring professional assistance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guided Imagery - A life beyond the job - Limited self-disclosure - False stress cures |
|---|--|



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Public consultation on PHECC's Draft 2011 Education and Training Standard

PHECC would like your input into the development of the 2011 Education and Training Standards.

Background

The current Education and Training Standards (Edition 1) was approved by Council in April 2007. This standard has been the framework for upwards of 40 recognised institutions to deliver over 120 recognised pre-hospital emergency care courses and to make responder level awards. In 2008, Council commissioned an external educational review of the existing suite of clinical courses. The work of Dr. Hemal Thakore is acknowledged. Subsequently, every recognised course was re-examined to ensure consistency with the current edition of CPGs, other PHECC standards and the evolving scope of practice of practitioners and responders.

Emergency Care is the title of the proposed new responder level course that aims to bridge the divide between cardiac first response and emergency first response courses. Another new course in development is *Emergency First Response-Fire* and is an adaptation of the current emergency first response standard for the fire services.

Council rules have also been revisited and the purpose of this consultation is to identify if there is consensus that all the issues relating to the recognition of institutions and courses are comprehensively addressed.

How is the 2011 standard constructed?

The development of the standard is a major project involving the review of existing standards and the creation of new material. There are 4 principal documents in the standard:

1. Draft Council rules for the recognition of institutions and courses
2. Draft PHECC's teaching faculty framework
3. Draft Recognition of prior learning
4. Draft Recognised courses:
 - cardiac first response
 - emergency care (special circumstances)
 - emergency first response
 - emergency first response-fire
 - EMC (call taker and dispatcher)
 - emergency medical technician
 - paramedic
 - advanced paramedic

Scope of consultation

During this public consultation a number of key stakeholders will be targeted including:

1. Recognised institutions
2. PHECC working groups, Committees and Council
3. CPG approved organisations
4. Practitioners and Responders
5. Other targeted individuals & organisations

PHECC would like to thank you in advance for your greatly valued assistance. Please note that all submissions received are subject to the Freedom of Information and Data Protection Acts and a list of all persons who provided submissions may be published. Copies of the standards and draft documents are available the home page of our website www.phecc.ie.

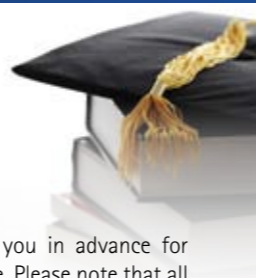
You are asked to submit your feedback in writing to

P. Dempsey
PHECC
Abbey Moat House
Abbey St.
Naas
Co Kildare or by email to pauline@phecc.ie

What next?

During the consultation period, all the responses will be reviewed and the comments considered as part of the ongoing development of the standard. At the end of this designated period, the feedback will be compiled and discussed by the Accreditation Committee and Council in early December.

PHECC would like to clarify that recognition of institutions under a 2007 application will continue for a minimum period of 3 years. During the transition a number of institutions have or will have their 3 year period extended. In 2011 it is envisaged that institutions will reapply for course recognition on a phased basis. PHECC will work with individual institutions and endeavour to keep disruption to scheduled training courses to a minimum.



and patient treatment was evaluated against protocols used in international EMS organisations, the MDA and the American Heart Association. Throughout the scenarios, trained actors and advanced mannequins were used to simulate trauma or medical emergencies in adult, paediatric and neonatal patients.

The Irish team found the experience to be both challenging and educational. The team found the progression from CPG 2 TO CPG 3 has moved

Irish ALS practice closer to standards practiced by other long-established EMS providers. The insights gained into other EMS systems during this competition has helped to confirm that Irish Advanced Paramedic and Paramedic practice is being developed in line with our counterparts on the world stage and provided the team with a view to where possible future developments will take place within pre-hospital practice in Ireland.

The team wishes to thank Adanced Paramedics Kieran Henry and Brigid Wall for their expert advise and outstanding training sessions. The team also wishes to thank the Paramedics who acted as patients for the training sessions: Micheal Dineen, Jennifer Flahaven, Eammon Byrne and Des Quinn.

The team wishes to thank and acknowledge the support received from PHECC.

Are you covered or acting outside the law???

Have you checked the expiry date on your PHECC licence recently?

PHECC Practitioner Re-registration

Your PHECC practitioner licence is issued on an annual basis over a 3-year period. For administrative purposes a registration period of 3 years duration has been applied to date. The vast majority of practitioners comply with re-registration, however, there has been an increase in the number of late re-registrations. Licence expiry is an extremely serious matter for you the

practitioner. If you fail to re-register you are NO longer authorised to implement PHECC CPGs nor are you authorised to administer medications as per SI 510 of 2005 or SI 512 of 2008. If you practice under an expired licence you are acting outside the law and may be personally liable. You have no legal protection for your actions.

Registration Fee

There has been no change in the PHECC registration fee. This remains at €10 per annum amounting to a payment of €30 at re-registration time. Council have, however,

authorised the introduction of an increasing scale of fees, outlined below, to be applied for late registration. This sees the introduction of a penalty for late re-registration combined with a mechanism to regain entry onto the register. Prior to this, the only way to be eligible to rejoin the Register was for a practitioner to re-sit the NQEMT Examination at their particular level.

Re-Registration Process

The re-registration process and associated fees are outlined in the table below.

RE-REGISTRATION PROCESS			
Registration Type	Time Period	Cost	Process
Normal	8 weeks prior to licence expiry	€30	8 weeks prior to licence expiry, notification is sent out to each registrant due for 3-yearly renewal. The deadline for receiving applications is 2 weeks prior to licence expiry date. The 3-year re-registration fee is €30.
Late	2 weeks prior to licence expiry	€50	On failing to re-register and 2 weeks prior to licence expiry, a further letter is sent. Registrants now have until the last day of their licence expiry to complete the re-registration process. Late registration incurs a fee of €50.
Restoration Period	Up to 3 months from licence expiry	€150	Practitioners who fail to re-register during the late period become unlicensed and are further invited to re-register within a 3-month restoration period. Restoration period re-registration incurs a fee of €150.
Post-Restoration Period	After 3 months from licence expiry	€300	After 3 months from licence expiry date a practitioner will be informed that he/she must submit an application letter to the Registrar outlining reasons for late re-registration including a CV detailing experience and training undertaken since registration lapsed. This application incurs a fee of €300.

Remember:

- check the expiry date on your licence
- until you re-register you are NOT registered and your practice is limited
- inform us of any change to your postal address since you joined the register (claire@phecc.ie) otherwise your re-registration correspondence may not reach you and result in you paying increased fees

3rd International EMS Championship, Israel 2010

In June this year an Irish team consisting of 3 registered practitioners participated in the 3rd International EMS Championship in Israel.

Magen David Adom (MDA) is the national EMS system of Israel, treating and transporting 500,000 patients per year, with one third requiring ALS intervention.

One method the MDA employs to ensure best practice among its members is to host an international ALS and BLS competition. This competition aims to measure, evaluate and grade the professional treatment ability of competing EMS teams. The organisations which enter teams into this competition are: Magen David Adom in Israel, the Israel Defence Forces and EMS Teams from the international community.

Ireland competed in this years ALS competition. The team comprised of team captain - Mick Lynch, Advanced Paramedic; Bryan Kelly, Advanced Paramedic; and Valerie Walsh, Paramedic. Training for the competition was conducted on location in the Emergency Department of the Mercy Hospital Cork, Mallow Fire Station and Civil Defence HQ Skibbreen, was coordinated by Paul O'Driscoll Advanced Paramedic, and Dr. Jason Van Der Velde. Sponsorship was provided by the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council.

The competition was held over two days, with five scenarios each day and one night station, which was held on the first night of the competition. As the working environment in the Middle East can be challenging, competitors were required to

be physically fit and be able to work well within a team.

Each medical scenario lasted 40 minutes



Valerie Walsh, Bryan Kelly, Dr Zvi Feigenberg Medical Director MDA in Israel, Mick Lynch Irish Team Captain. Presentation to Dr Zvi Feigenberg Medical Director MDA in Israel by the Irish team of a Replica of the Fastnet Rock which is the nearest part of Ireland to Israel being the most southerly point in Ireland.