

Quality Review Framework
Composite Report
RECFIRSTAID Limited

Table of Contents

1. Institution Details	1
2. Review Details	1
3. Report Details	2
4. Review Activities	2
4.1 Meetings	2
4.2 Stakeholder Discussions	2
4.3 Document Review	3
4.4 Observation of Practice, Facilities and Resources	3
5. Compliance Rating and Level	4
6. QRP Findings	5
6.1 Theme 1: Organisational Structure and Management	5
6.2 Theme 2: The Learning Environment	9
6.3 Theme 3: Human Resource Management	12
6.4 Theme 4: Course Development, Delivery and Review	15
7. Conclusion and Outcome	18

Quality Review Framework Composite Report

1. Institution Details

Name	RECFIRSTAID Limited
Address	Ballymartin, Dungourney, Midleton, Co Cork.
Type of Organisation	Private Company
Profile	PHECC approved training institution. RECFIRSTAID provides a wide range of PHECC approved courses within the field of practice and administration for all courses is carried out at the main office in Midleton. All elements of internal verification (IV) are aligned to core personnel from the main office. At the time of review the institution had registered external affiliated faculty and all are actively providing training in the emergency care
	field. All the external affiliated faculty are subject to the requirements of the institutions quality assurance system and PHECC's Quality Review Framework.
PHECC Courses Delivered	CFR Community CFR Community Instructor CFR Advanced CFR Advanced Instructor CFR — Epinephrine First Aid Response First Aid Response Instructor
Higher Education Affiliation	N/A

2. Review Details

Purpose	 To facilitate the enhancement of a successful learning experience for students. To foster a culture of continuous quality improvement in institutions.
	To generate public confidence in the standard of education and training in pre-hospital emergency care.
Scope	 All activities associated with meeting the quality standards as outlined in the PHECC Quality Review Framework. All documentation submitted in support of the continuous quality improvement of PHECC approved courses. A sample of course, student and faculty records. All personnel associated with the delivery and administration of PHECC approved courses.
Date of the Desktop Review	21st November 2021

Date of On-site Review	6 th December 2021
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3. Report Details

Draft report sent to Institution for feedback	20 th January 2022
Final report sent to Institution	22 nd February 2022
Director Approval	Richard Lodge, Director
Date	16 February 2022
Report Compiled by	Quality Review Panel

4. Review Activities

4.1 Meetings

Opening Meeting (add rows as required)		
Organisation	Role	
PHECC	Quality Review Panel Lead	
PHECC	Quality Review Panel Member	
PHECC	Quality Review Panel Member	
RECFIRSTAID	Managing Director	
RECFIRSTAID	Quality Lead	
RECFIRSTAID	Training Director	
Closing Meeting (add rows as required)		
Organisation	Role	
PHECC	Quality Review Panel Lead	
PHECC	Quality Review Panel Member	
PHECC	Quality Review Panel Member	
RECFIRSTAID	Managing Director	
RECFIRSTAID	Quality Lead	
RECFIRSTAID	Training Director	

4.2 Stakeholder Discussions

Name/Group	Role (add rows as required)
N/A	N/A

4.3 Document Review

The records and systems listed below were reviewed and discussed during the desktop and onsite reviews. Online learner management Website **RPL Policy** systems **Organisational Chart** Risk Management List **Administration Policy** Learner records Appeals process **Complaints Policy** Instructor online files Programme Development & **Role Descriptors Review Policy Quality Policy** Organisational Training Plan Tax Clearance Cert Named Faculty List Health & Safety Policy **Appeals Policy**

4.4 Observation of Practice, Facilities and Resources

Practice – e.g. Course delivery, administration, clinical placement (add rows as required)		
Location	Comments	
N/A	N/A	
Facilities (add rows as required)		
Location	Comments	
N/A	N/A	
Resources – e.g. equipment, ICT, course material, etc (add rows as required)		
Location	Comments	
N/A	N/A	

5. Compliance Rating and Level

The Compliance Ratings (CRs) are designed to establish a baseline, measure ongoing progress and encourage CQI. Ratings are given on a five-point scale (0-4) against each component. To calculate the overall Compliance Level (CL) for the relevant quality standard:

- 1. Add the CR for each applicable component of the QS to get a total number.
- 2. Divide the total number by the number of applicable components to get the average.
- 3. Check for the compliance level on the matrix and record on the SAR.

Rating	Level	Descriptor
N/A	Not Applicable – N/A	The standard is not applicable.
0 – 0.99	Not Met – NM	No evidence of compliance in the organisation.
1 – 1.99	Minimally Met – MNM	Evidence of a low degree of organisation-wide compliance.
2 – 2.99	Moderately Met – MDM	Evidence of a moderate degree of organisation-wide compliance.
3 – 3.99	Substantively Met – SM	Substantive evidence of organisation-wide compliance.
4	Fully Met – FM	Evidence of full compliance across the organisation.

6. QRP Findings

6.1 Theme 1: Organisational Structure and Management

Quality Area	1.1 Governance	Level
Quality Standard	The institution has fit-for-purpose governance that ensures objective oversight, and clear lines of authority and accountability for all activities associated with PHECC-approved courses.	MNM

QRP Findings

The evidence indicated that the organisational chart did not reflect current practice and activities outlined in the policies and procedures. During discussions it was indicated that all roles are in place for educational and training governance, but these have not been mapped to a clear organisational chart.

The evidence indicated that there was no effective results approval processes or the implementation of this in the organisation, the ATI needs to develop clear processes for verification and approval precertification of all courses.

The evidence for course approval and booking of courses and the aligned documents for inhouse and affiliated trainers were viewed at the virtual visit. In discussion with the ATI it was agreed that more clarity is required on this process and the aligned procedures ensuring that all those delivering courses are pre-approved instructors who have completed the induction of the organisation.

The evidence indicated that the institution would benefit from an updated procedure to ensure that, when required, relevant sub-groups and individuals are in place to provide objective oversight.

The institution would benefit from additional documentation to support these activities to include, terms of reference for sub-groups and new and updated role descriptions for all activities associated with education and training.

The evidence indicated that the institution has procedures in place for identifying, assessing and managing health & safety risk only, with no reference to educational or financial components. The Managing Director outlined the new processes being implemented across the ATI.

Areas of Good Practice

- Individual with overall responsibility for education and training governance identified.
- Some roles descriptors in place.
- Commitment to enhance the process from very positive discussions.

- Organisational Chart to be updated to reflect education and training governance.
- Procedures to be developed/updated to ensure relevant sub-groups/individuals are in place to provide objective oversight.
- Role descriptions to be developed/updated to reflect practice and all activities associated with education and training.
- Embedding all areas of assessment approval is required including core elements of internal verification (IV), external authentication (EA) and results approval process.
- Key criteria to be designed to support all assessment and verification roles, and competency criteria set for those undertaking IV and EA within the organisation.
- Risks identification, assessment and management be carried out across all education and training activities associated with PHECC approved courses.

Quality Area	1.2 Management Systems and Organisational Processes	Level
Quality Standard	The institution complies with all relevant legislation and cooperates with PHECC to meet its requirements.	MDM

QRP Findings

The evidence indicated that the institution is an established legal entity with education and training as a principal function and is in good financial standing with the Revenue Commissioner.

The evidence indicated that all tasks (from student entry to exit) associated with education and training are not documented effectively, it was indicated that the institution would benefit from additional and updates to existing documentation to reflect current practice and support these activities

During discussions representatives indicated that the institution and external affiliated faculty, maintained personnel data of students. The evidence indicated that the documentation in place for data protection needs to be updated to reflect current practice and the requirements under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016/679. This was highlighted as an area of concern and risk.

The institution provided written confirmation of company insurance. The evidence also indicated that it is a requirement of the institution that external affiliated faculty have their own insurance in place and to provide documented evidence to the institution of that insurance. Observation showed that affiliated training organisations need to provide more clarity on insurance arrangements for subcontractors.

The evidence indicated that documentation is in place for dealing with complaints at all levels within the organisation, but clarity is required around the processing of a complaint and the escalation points.

The evidence indicated that the institution and all stakeholders would benefit from an up-to-date policy and procedures to ensure full compliance with its obligations under the Child and Vulnerable Persons Act 2012.

Areas of Good Practice

- The institution is an established legal entity with education and training as a principal function.
- The institution is in good financial standing (at the time of review) with the Revenue Commissioner.

- Document all tasks associated with education and training activities.
- Update data protection policy and procedures to reflect current practice and legislative requirements under GDPR 2016/679.
- Update complaints policy and procedures to reflect current practice and evidence that all stakeholders have been made aware of it.
- Development of an appropriate system to meet obligations under of the Child and Vulnerable Persons Act 2012 and amended vetting processes 2021.

Quality Area	1.3 Continuous Quality Improvement	Level
Quality Standard	The institution has a proactive, systematic approach to monitoring, reviewing and enhancing education and training activities.	MNM

QRP Findings

The evidence indicated that the quality policy and associated procedures need to be updated to reflect current practice.

During discussions representatives indicated that the Training Director has overall responsibility for the quality assurance of PHECC approved courses.

The evidence indicated that all those involved in education and training activities associated with PHECC approved courses have not been made aware of their quality assurance responsibilities. During discussions representatives indicated that additional documentation and activities would support improvements in this area, and a robust system of monitoring affiliated instructors is required.

The evidence indicated that the institution would benefit from a documented systematic approach to reviewing policies and procedures to ensure they are effective, for purpose, reflect current practice and are consistent with the requirements of relevant legislation.

Areas of Good Practice

- 2019 PHECC self-assessment report completed and submitted
- Areas for improvement identified and included in the quality improvement plan
- Internal Training plan and platform in place, this will assist in all development of instructors.
- Organisation has a very clear commitment to enhancing practice and quality improvements

Areas for Improvement

- Quality policy and procedures need to be updated to reflect current practice
- Provide additional documentation that supports the systematic review of learning resources and locations and provide evidence that these activities have taken place.

Quality Area	1.4 Transparency and Accountability	Level
Quality Standard	The institution conducts its activities in an open and transparent manner, with appropriate feedback and feed-forward systems in place, with and between all relevant stakeholders.	MNM

QRP Findings

During discussions it was outlined that a range of auditing activities are in place, the evidence indicated that the institution would benefit from additional documentation to support these activities, including more effective evaluation processes and monitoring of programmes.

During discussions representatives described the process for ensuring that certificate activity reports, the disclosure of all faculty members and any other targeted information requests are submitted to PHECC, these are submitted in line with request timelines. The evidence indicated that additional documentation and information is required to support these activities and ensure that up to date information is available.

The evidence indicated that prospective students would benefit from additional documentation and information to make an informed choice about course participation, and identification of all those involved in programme provision.

Areas of Good Practice

• Responsibility for providing PHECC with information allocated.

- Additional documentation to support and provide evidence of internal reporting.
- Update procedures to ensure that targeted information is provided to PHECC as requested.
- Develop systems to ensure that all prospective students are provided with sufficient information to make an informed choice about course participation.
- Ensure that the general public are made aware of any third-party relationships.
- Provide information to the public about the quality assurance system and external reviews.

6.2 Theme 2: The Learning Environment

Quality Area	2.1 Training Infrastructure	Level
Quality Standard	Courses are carried out in appropriate facilities and are sufficiently resourced to deliver training to the highest standards.	MNM

QRP Findings

The evidence indicated that the institution has health and safety policy, procedures and supporting documents in place. It also indicated that additional documentation would support the activities described and provide evidence of consistency of practice across all PHECC approved courses being delivered across various streams of provision.

The evidence indicated that documentation needs to be put in place to ensure that appropriate training premises are selected and used and that appropriate equipment/resources are available and used to deliver PHECC approved courses.

During discussions representatives indicated that additional premises checks are to be carried out during monitoring visits, with live virtual monitoring undertaken for some instructors. Additional documentation and updates to existing documents would support and provide evidence of these activities.

Areas of Good Practice

- Health & safety policy, procedures and supporting documents in place.
- Documentation in place for equipment checks.

Areas for Improvement

- Updates to existing documentation to provide additional information.
- Maintain up to date records of activities for all PHECC approved courses.
- Documentation to be put in place to support both checking and monitoring venues suitability.
- Risk assessment to be completed for all external sites prior to first delivery of programmes and then monitored as required.

Quality Area	2.2 Student Support	Level
Quality Standard	A positive, encouraging, safe, supportive and challenging environment is provided for students.	MDM

QRP Findings

The evidence indicated that there are a range of supports available for students, but not formalised or communicated to all stakeholders. The evidence indicated that the institution and students would benefit from additional/updated information about these supports to support consistency of practice across all PHECC approved courses.

There is no reference in documentation about the opportunities for students to meet with faculty and management, from discussion this was clarified as informal processes at the present. The evidence indicated that the institution and students would benefit from additional information to support these activities and ensure consistency of practice across all PHECC approved courses.

The evidence indicated that the institution and students would benefit from additional documentation and information to ensure that up to date resources are made available in a variety of formats and to ensure consistency of practice across all PHECC approved courses.

Areas of Good Practice

- A range of student support available.
- Opportunities for students to meet with faculty in informal settings.

Areas for Improvement

- Additional support required to carry out all activities described in the documentation.
- Policy and procedures required to formalise these processes and make visible to all stakeholders.
- Additional information required to ensure students on all courses are made aware of available supports.
- Ensure that sufficient up to date resources are made available to students on all courses and that evidence of this is maintained.

Quality Area	2.3 Equality and Diversity	Level
Quality Standard	There is a commitment to provide equal opportunities for students and personnel, in compliance with relevant equality legislation.	MNM

QRP Findings

The evidence indicated that the institution has limited documented equality and diversity policy and procedures.

The evidence indicated that all relevant policies and procedures (e.g. staff recruitment, development and management) need to be updated to reflect current practice and to ensure they are legislatively compliant in reference to equality and diversity.

Areas of Good Practice

- Documented equality and diversity policy and procedures.
- Course delivery accommodates the cultural backgrounds and different learning styles of students.

- Update all relevant policies and procedures to ensure they are legislatively compliant with reference to equality and diversity.
- Clarity on where stakeholders are made aware of this policy, and any procedures for reporting concerns.
- Ensure that all stakeholders are made aware of the policy and procedures.
- Provide additional up to date information and training on equality and diversity.

Quality Area	2.4 Internship/Clinical Placement	Level
Quality Standard	INQEMT courses only: Internship/Clinical Placement sites are appropriate to course content and the learning outcomes to be achieved	N/A
	QRP Findings	
• N/A		
Areas of Good Practice		
• N/A	• N/A	
Areas for Improvement		
• N/A		

6.3 Theme 3: Human Resource Management

Quality Area	3.1 Organisational Staffing	Level
Quality Standard	The institution has sufficient, appropriately qualified and experienced personnel to maintain high-quality education and training activities.	MNM

QRP Findings

The evidence demonstrates that the organisation completes an induction process for all faculty. During discussion it was agreed that clearer guidelines were required on the process and the monitoring of these activities.

The evidence indicated that the institution and personnel would benefit from additional and updated documentation and information about their quality assurance responsibilities and evidence that these activities are being carried out consistently.

The evidence indicated that the institution and all stakeholders would benefit from an up-to-date policy and procedures to ensure full compliance with its obligations under the Child and Vulnerable Persons Act 2012.

The evidence indicated that the institution and personnel would benefit from updated job descriptions and updated statements of terms of employment/engagement to reflect documented activities, current practice and relevant legislative requirements and guidelines.

Areas of Good Practice

- A robust systematic approach to recruiting faculty.
- Embedded practice across all streams of the organisation.

Areas for Improvement

- Document/update all role and job descriptions to reflect documented activities and quality assurance responsibilities.
- Ensure personnel are in place to carry out all documented activities.
- Documented policy and procedures to ensure full compliance with obligations under the Child and Vulnerable Persons Act 2012.

Quality Area	3.2 Personnel Development	Level
Quality Standard	The institution takes a systematic approach to supporting and developing all personnel, ensuring they have the competencies to deliver high-quality education and training.	MNM

QRP Findings

The evidence indicated that the institution has clearly defined approaches to the development of all personnel and that the organisation values the commitment to educational provision through supporting all activities of both full and contracted staff. The evidence indicated that this would be enhanced by formalised procedures on these areas and construction of development plans or maps for all involved in educational provision. The further development of the internal training plan would assist these processes.

The evidence indicated that the institution would benefit from a formalised support and supervision and annual appraisal system which would be consistent with activities outlined in the documentation.

Areas of Good Practice

- Evidence that upskilling has taken place.
- Informal mechanisms are in place for faculty to request support.

Areas for Improvement

- Additional documentation needed to identify the training/upskilling support and development requirements/needs of all personnel.
- Additional information that development/upskilling has taken place, relevant to the role.
- Additional documentation to provide clarity around the mechanisms for faculty to request support for training/upskilling to ensure that practice is consistent with activities described in the policies and procedures.

Quality Area	3.3 Personnel Management	Level
Quality Standard	A systematic approach is taken to managing all individuals and groups engaged in education and training activities.	MNM

QRP Findings

The evidence indicated that the system in place does not ensure that only personnel with valid certification deliver PHECC approved courses. Discussion and observation of affiliated instructors showed gaps in practice.

During discussions representatives indicated that communication between external affiliated faculty and management is through email, conversations and training provision. The evidence indicated that the institution and faculty would benefit from additional documentation to support these activities.

The evidence indicated that faculty provide feedback during and after their course and that the institution would benefit from additional/updated documentation (course reports) from faculty.

The evidence indicated that the institution needs to document procedures for dealing with poor and unacceptable performance of faculty, in practice this was evidenced as a clear process with both remedial actions and sanctions in place, commentated processes would add to the verification of this.

Areas of Good Practice

• Faculty provide course feedback.

- Additional documentation to support communication between faculty and management.
- Evidence of systematic monitoring of faculty through observation and the analysis of relevant documentation.
- Documented procedures for dealing with poor and acceptable performance of faculty.

Quality Area	3.4 Collaborative Provision	Level
Quality Standard	Appropriate contractual and quality assurance arrangements are in place with contracted staff.	MNM

QRP Findings

The evidence indicated that the institution and external affiliated faculty would benefit from a documented collaborative provision policy and associated procedures to ensure the effective collaborative roles and responsibilities.

The evidence indicated that a written and signed contract/agreement was in place between management and external affiliated faculty with clear outlining of QA responsibilities.

The evidence indicated that, at the time of review, all external affiliated faculty details were not submitted to PHECC. Discussion on the affiliated providers and their training panel noted that not all instructors are inducted, nor has the ATI full awareness of these panels.

The evidence indicated that the institution and external affiliated faculty would benefit from additional/updated documentation of the agreed quality assurance standards between both parties.

Areas of Good Practice

- There is a documented quality assurance agreement in place.
- All stages of collaborative provision in place informally.

- Develop and document a collaborative provision policy and associated procedures.
- Provide documented evidence of QA standards between both parties.
- More formal processes required for the affiliated training providers and effective monitoring of training delivery.
- Provide evidence of regular reports from external affiliated faculty and analysis of these reports.

6.4 Theme 4: Course Development, Delivery and Review

Quality Area	4.1 Course Development and Approval	Level
Quality Standard	A systematic approach is taken to course development and approval.	MNM

QRP Findings

The evidence indicated that the institution would benefit from additional/updated documentation to ensure the course development, delivery and review policy and procedures are up to date, reflect current practice and accommodate updates or changes in PHECC education and training standards, clinical practice guidelines or examination standards.

The evidence indicated that course development and material (developed by the institution):

- demonstrates an appropriate balance between theory and practice
- provides a balance between presentations, group work, skills demonstrations, practical work and blended learning, as appropriate
- clearly outlines aims and objectives, detailing competencies to be achieved by students
- has detailed lesson plans that include all information as set out in PHECC guidelines for theoretical and practical lessons
- has detailed timetable, time on each topic, teaching method, tutor/instructor name, etc.

Areas of Good Practice

- Documented procedures for course development and review.
- Course material meets PHECC requirements.
- Course approval process documented.

Areas for Improvement

- Document a systematic approach to internal course approval.
- Structure of a subgroup for course design and approval, ensuring separation of decision making at all times.

Quality Area	4.2 Course Delivery – Methods of Theoretical and Clinical Instruction	Level
Quality Standard	Courses are delivered in a manner that meets students' needs and in accordance with PHECC guidelines.	MNM

QRP Findings

The evidence indicated that instructor names are recorded on course material and that records of student attendance are maintained.

The evidence indicated that the institution would benefit from additional documentation to support student induction, structured one-to-one time with the instructor and to ensure consistency of practice across all PHECC approved courses.

Areas of Good Practice

- Instructor details are recorded on course documentation.
- Records of student attendance are maintained.
- Clear evidence of monitoring of faculty and corrective actions in place.

Areas for Improvement

- A systematic system for student induction and evidence that it is formalised and consistent across all PHECC approved courses.
- Evidence that, if required, all students are provided with the opportunity of one-to-one time with the instructor, appropriate to their needs.
- Monitoring of those delivering courses is required to ensure those who sign off on attendance are the agreed and approved instructor.

Quality Area	4.3 Course Access, Transfer and Progression	Level
Quality Standard	Course information is clear, and access is fair and consistent, with recognition of prior learning, as appropriate.	MNM

QRP Findings

The evidence indicated that the institution and students would benefit from additional documentation and information about courses admission and entry criteria, including recognition of prior learning, to ensure consistency of practice across all PHECC approved courses being delivered by the institution.

The evidence indicated that the recognition of prior learning procedures (RPL) need to be updated to reflect current practice, provide clarity and ensure consistency of practice across all courses.

Areas of Good Practice

• Information is provided verbally to students so they can an informed choice about course participation.

Areas for Improvement

 Additional/updated documentation about admissions and/or entry criteria to reflect current practice and ensure consistency of practice across all PHECC approved courses.

Quality Area	4.4 Course Review	Level
Quality Standard	Courses are reviewed in a manner that allows for constructive feedback from all stakeholders.	MNM

QRP Findings

The evidence indicated that the institution would benefit from documented procedures to support course review.

The evidence indicated that the institution has identified areas for improvement and actions have been agreed and included in the quality improvement plan.

Areas of Good Practice

- Students have an opportunity to provide feedback during and after their course.
- The institution has a documented quality improvement plan.
- Feedback from students is reviewed and aligned to improvement measures for all programmes within the organisation.

Areas for Improvement

 Document a systematic approach to course evaluation that includes an opportunity for all stakeholders to contribute.

Quality Area	4.5 Assessment and Awards	Level
Quality Standard	Assessment of student achievement is carried out in a fair and consistent manner, in line with PHECC assessment criteria.	MNM

QRP Findings

The evidence indicated that the assessment policy and procedures need to be updated to reflect current and new practice.

The evidence indicated that the institution would benefit from additional documentation and updates to existing documents to clearly identify responsibility for managing the PHECC certification system.

The evidence indicated that the institution and students would benefit from an updated appeals policy and procedures.

The evidence indicated that verification and approval processes for certification are not undertaken. Discussion with ATI on this noted that these are specific criterion and must be embedded in daily practice.

Areas of Good Practice

- Appropriate assessment methodology is used for all courses.
- It's clearly stated when PHECC assessment material is used.
- Student support is available for assessment.

- Update assessment policy and procedures to reflect current practice.
- Provide students with information about assessment supports and maintain a record of these activities.
- Update documentation for the security of assessment material.
- Implement all stages of internal verification, external authentication and results approval across all courses.
- Documented appeals policy and procedures.

7. Conclusion and Outcome

Rating	1.5
Level	Minimally Met (MNM) – Evidence of a low degree of organisation-wide compliance.
Conclusion	There are policies and procedures in place and the ATI demonstrated a commitment to internal quality assurance and continuous quality improvement. The systems in place need revision to provide a more effective oversight at all levels in the organisation which ensures that the quality assurance of PHECC approved courses is carried out in an effective and efficient manner. The evidence indicated that the implementation of the improvement actions identified during self-assessment and external quality review will lead to an enhanced learning experience for students and institution personnel. The ATI has the capabilities to embed the criterion and is actively looking to enhance its practice through development of new systems. The completion date for all improvement actions is 25 th April 2022.



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