

London PHEM training program

The London Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine training program offers exceptional training and the opportunity to work in services with world class reputations. The program is led by London's Air Ambulance and delivered in partnership with the London Ambulance Service, East Anglian Air Ambulance and Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust.

The program is one year full time (scheme C) with six months spent in London and six months spent with a partner air ambulance in the East of England, providing an exceptionally varied mix of geography, patients and services.

London's Air Ambulance

PHEM trainees will join a service with a 25 year history of pre-hospital care excellence. Performing on average 5 patient contact missions a day, with a high acuity leading to a 25% RSI rate, the clinical exposure gained far exceeds the requirements for PHEM training.



Consultants in pre-hospital care with world class reputations in the fields of major incidents, pre-hospital anaesthesia, pre-hospital blood transfusion and medical education head the service and deliver exceptional training.

London's Air Ambulance operates a 24/7/365 service, using an MD 902 during daylight hours and rapid response cars at night; tasking is exclusively to major

trauma. Monday to Friday 08:00-18:00 a physician response unit attends medical emergency calls. Operations are based at The Helipad, Royal London Hospital, E1 1BB

Twice weekly case review meetings ("D&D") are led by consultants and provide considerable opportunity to learn from the collective experience of over 30,000 missions, as well as undertake case based discussions. Monthly clinical governance days attract an international as well as a local audience and are a major focus of clinical governance for the service.

Other flight doctors seconded to London's Air Ambulance come from around the world, often with extensive experience of aeromedical or retrieval medicine, providing an unparalleled opportunity for exchanging knowledge.

Training & Experience

Further educational opportunities include extrication training with London Fire Brigade and at the National Fire Service College in Oxfordshire, as well as specialist extrication & rescue training with London Underground. Exposure to retrieval medicine will be provided by the neonatal retrieval service at the Royal London Hospital.



The London PHEM program will offer training days addressing areas such as CBRN, environmental emergencies, obstetric and neonatal problem and retrieval / transfer medicine to ensure all curriculum areas are covered. Logbooks from current doctors indicate that likely exposure will be 250 patients, 50 RSIs and 60 procedural sedations.

London Ambulance Service

London Ambulance Service is the busiest ambulance service in the UK and is supporting the PHEM program through the delivery of expert training in major incident and mass gathering management, as well as dispatch and coordination.



East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA)

EAAA has been operational for over 10 years and operates two aircraft from bases in Norwich and Cambridge, with response cars available when conditions preclude flying. The Norwich base operates one shift a day (07:00-19:00) and Cambridge base operates two shifts a day (07:00-17:00 and 16:00-01:00). EAAA was the first air ambulance charity to perform a night HEMS mission and uses an NVIS equipped EC 135 at Cambridge to undertake these missions.



The medical director is Alistair Wilson OBE and there is a team of consultants including Prof Tim Harris, Dr Jeremy Mauger, Dr Pam Chrispin and Dr Tom Hurst who provide training and clinical governance.

EAAA has a base at Cambridge Airport CB5 8RX and at Norwich Airport NR6 6EG.

Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust (EHAAT)

Essex air ambulance originally started operating in 1998 and has expanded to provide two doctor-paramedic crewed aircraft.

The medical director is Dr Ronan Fenton and there is a team of consultants including Dr Samy Sadek, Dr Adam Chesters, Dr Roger Bloomer and Lt Col Claire Park who provide training and clinical governance.

It is intended that EHAAT will join the London PHEM training program in 2016.

EHAAT has a base at North Weald Airbase CM16 6AA and at the Earls Colne Airfield CO6 2NS.



East Of England Case Mix

The case mix at EAAA and EHAAT is around 70% trauma and 30% medical, and while overall acuity is lower than in London, with approximately 10% of patients requiring RSI, transport times are significantly longer. Missions are undertaken to coastal and rural locations and this post will enable trainees to tackle significant diagnostic and decision making challenges. Both services are linked to London's Air Ambulance, who's consultants provide telephone advice to the clinical team.

Rotation Details

The rotation will commence in August 2015 with 1 post available to commence at LAA and the other at EAAA. After six months these posts will rotate. During the 12 month period of training doctors will need to come to London for training events, notably the pre-hospital care course which is a mandatory seven day course running in early August. During the EAAA secondment, doctors will work at both the Norwich and Cambridge bases.

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