



Guidance on Event Medical Cover

The following guidance is for event organisers', to assist them with providing a safe, effective, and resilient medical service, which minimises' the impact of the event on the local NHS. The advice given in this document sets out the principles of good practice and is offered as guidance only.

EMAS utilises the Purple Guide to Health, Safety and Welfare at Music and Other Events as their best practice and guidance for non-sporting events, on behalf of the Derbyshire Safety Advisory Group (SAG). The guide, which covers more than health and safety, is not designed to be prescriptive but simply to highlight legal responsibilities and non-legislative good practice.

If the event is of a sporting nature such as a running or cycling event, the sport's governing body legislation must also be implemented.

When planning an event, the event organiser has several responsibilities related to medical provision these include:

- ensure appropriate medical provision is available to all those attending or involved in delivering the event.
- conduct due diligence in the selection of a competent medical provider, including ensuring suitable arrangements are in place for the transfer of patients requiring hospital care.
- ensure the provision of all necessary infrastructure for delivery of the service.
- minimise the effects of the event on the NHS healthcare services by providing good medical care on site.
- engagement from the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) where one is convened and/or NHS Ambulance Service.

Appropriate Medical Provision

Every event is unique to ensure the medical provision provided is suitable for an event, the organiser should produce a medical needs assessment, which is provided to the SAG medical representative (EMAS). The medical needs assessment will consider the following questions to determine the tier of event that is being held.

- What is the maximum number of attendees attending the event at any given time?
This is at a given time and not the number of attendees you are expecting for the duration of the event. For example, an ice rink being used for several days may be expecting 1000 skaters but will only have 80 onsite at any given time.
- Is alcohol being sold / consumed?
- Is drug use expected?
- What are the risks of individual activities?

- Are referrals to NHS healthcare services likely?
- What is the duration of your event?

Once a medical needs assessment has been completed and the tier of event has been identified the organisers should create a medical specification for medical providers to work to. This should contain sufficient information, including casualty data from previous events, to enable them to make their own assessment of the cover required.

Five tiers of events may be considered, each requiring a different level of medical resource. These can be found within the purple guide.

Organisers should ensure there are suitable arrangements for conveying casualties needing to go to hospital. Some may be able to make their own way there, while others will need an ambulance. 999 calls should not be used routinely. Where the service is contracted from the event medical provider, care should be taken to ensure this does not compromise any on-site medical provision.

Camping

Where there is public camping at an event, this may present specific challenges in terms of medical cover, and these should be included in the medical needs assessment.

Choosing a medical provider

Where a contracted medical service is required, organisers should ensure they have the skills, experience and resources needed to provide safe and effective cover. Medical teams may need to be able to manage a wide range of medical, trauma and mental health presentations, including substance misuse and chronic conditions.

Organisers should ensure that the chosen provider is:

- appropriately insured (inc. public liability, medical indemnity, fleet insurance)
- has appropriate governance in place (inc. data protection, safeguarding, infection control and DBS checks).
- Medical staff are appropriately trained and qualified. (Healthcare professionals should provide registration numbers, for organisers to check)

Medical Planning

A medical plan is to be written by the chosen medical provider and submitted to the SAG medical representative (EMAS) for review. The plan should include the following information as a minimum.

- name(s) and roles of the medical provider(s)
- named individual(s) with responsibility for coordinating medical provision and are available on-site during the event.
- type of event with reference to audience profile, activities on site and history
- event location with access and egress routes
- agreed start and finish times of contracted cover.

- site plans showing access routes (including routes for emergency access) and delineating medical provider's area of responsibility (agreed with NHS ambulance service)
- specific arrangements for covering campsites.
- medical staff numbers and skill-mix
- communications plan, with command-and-control structure.
- records policy & GDPR arrangements for information sharing, including RIDDOR reporting.
- safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable adults & children
- infection prevention and control measures, including the management and disposal of sharps and other clinical waste.
- contingency plans for major or mass casualty incidents
- medical needs assessment and contingency plans for known hazards

All phases of the event need to be included within medical planning including the build and deconstruction of temporary infrastructure and facilities.

Organisers should ensure that adequate medical provision is available throughout the event, considering whether a pre & post-event medical service should be commissioned, especially for larger events. An event may be scheduled to finish at 1800hrs, but will the location be emptied at that time or will it take a period for car parks to clear etc.

Post Event

The event organiser should obtain a report from the medical provider. This should include:

- introduction and summary of the task
- resources and capability provided & delivered.
- casualty statistics – numbers seen, conditions encountered, interventions and hospital referrals.
- issues identified in the medical plan.
- wider event issues
- recommendations for future similar events including implementation of learning from the event.

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