

Finnish Society of Emergency Medicine (FiSEM)

Report September 2012

Emergency Medicine in Finland

Emergency Medicine as a basic specialty was approved in early June 2012. The six-year programme will commence on 1 January 2013. A maximum of half of training time will take place in university hospitals, the rest in non-academic hospitals. The universities are responsible for the residency programme. Of the five University Hospitals in Finland, Helsinki and Turku have decided to have part-time professors. Other faculties will have programme leaders. The accreditation process will be planned for EDs. FiSEM will propose the curriculum and structure of teaching programmes, etc. An advisory board, consisting of two EM experts from each of the five faculties, will work with the deans of faculties on the national curriculum. A specialist competence programme (under the National Medical Association) did not raise much interest.

The current structure of EDs typically covers both primary and secondary care under the same roof, but with clear boundaries between them. Some larger EDs have already organised 'truly united EDs' under one administration and leadership with General Practice as one speciality, as in Medicine and Surgery. Physicians from these three specialties have worked in the ED for years. In academic hospitals only neurologists, and in some pulmonologists, have had their physicians in the front line. In future, Emergency Physicians will be able to manage most of the patient flow in the ED. This can typically occur after also getting new facilities which allow entirely new processes and a new approach to emergency care.

FiSEM is a member of Nordic Network on Emergency Medicine which was founded in June 2012 and will organise the first Nordic Conference on Emergency Medicine 13 - 15 November 2013 in Helsinki.

The next National Conference on Emergency Medicine in Finland will be held in Jyväskylä 1/2 November 2012.

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