

STATUS OF CZECH EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Jana Šeblová, MD, PhD

President of the Czech Society for Emergency and Disaster Medicine CzMA JEP

EM exists as an independent medical speciality since 1998 and was established basic medical speciality in 2013 again.

National Society was established in 1994 within Czech Medical Association of J. E. Purkyně. The first name was „Society for Prehospital Emergency Care“ and since 1998 the name has changed to „Society for Emergency and Disaster Medicine“.

Sections within the society are:

- Section for Disaster Medicine
- Young EM doctors Section
- Non-medical personnel Section.

19 National Guidelines were edited by the Society. They address CPR, trauma, disaster medicine, therapeutic hypothermia in CPR and many others.

System of prehospital care and network of Emergency Departments: The system of prehospital emergency care is well established and it is now regionally based with 14 regional EMS agencies and 14 regional medical dispatch centers. It is a combined physician based system – there are crews with physicians and paramedics and crews with paramedics and/or medical nurses. The whole area of the Czech Republic is covered by national emergency line 155 and European emergency line 112. Further, the network of Helicopter EMS (10 helicopter stations for CR) is completely covering the whole CR.

Since 2011 the **Emergency Medical Service Act No. 374/2011 Sb.** was edited by Ministry of Health defining all items of EMS activities.

The emergency departments are in most of 10 university hospitals and they are more and more common also in regional hospitals. Ministry of Health promised to promote establishing EDs in every hospital within 2 years. We consider Emergency Departments a clinical and educational base of specialty.

Postgraduate education in EM: The Department for Emergency and Disaster Medicine within the Institute for Postgraduate Medical Education in Prague was established in 1997. Emergency Medicine was acknowledged independent medical speciality in 1998, that time as a supraspecialty. After many changes in the system of postgraduate medical education it is a basic speciality since 2013 and with postgraduate education organised by universities. The educational curriculum corresponds with the European one. There are about 450 physicians specialised in Emergency Medicine at the time while the need is approximately 1200.

Continual medical education in EM: the number of educational activities has increased a lot both for physicians and non-physicians (medical nurses and paramedics). There are national conferences of Emergency as well as Disaster Medicine accredited by Society for Emergency and Disaster Medicine and other authorities (Czech Medical Chamber, universities). EM specialists also participate in other congresses (Intensive Medicine, Cardiology, Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation in CR and also in abroad).

Pregraduate education: For several last years, Emergency medicine is a noncompulsory part of pregraduate education in Olomouc, Brno, Hradec Králové, 2nd and 3rd medical faculty of Charles University in Prague. Scenario based competitions and educational activities are

organised for medical students the most famous as a part of international competition Rallye Rejvíz. Section for young emergency physicians and medical students exists within Czech Society for Emergency and Disaster Medicine (*see above*).

Textbooks and other publications: there are already numerous Czech books concerning EM. The most important are: *Emergency Medicine* by J. Pokorný et al., which is a basic textbook (edited 2004) and *First Aid for Physicians* by the same editor that is a textbook of emergency management and procedures for other physicians. A new textbook „*Emergency Medicine in physician's clinical practice*“ by authors Jana Seblova, Jiri Knor et al. was published 2013.

„**Urgentní medicína**“ – **Journal for Emergency Care** is Czech peer reviewed journal dedicated to pre- and in-hospital emergency care that exists since 1998. The papers are published in Czech, Slovak and English language. The journal is in the list of peer reviewed scientific journals approved by Research, Development and Innovation Council, a body of Government of CR and it is reviewed by Scopus at the time. Webpage: <http://urgentnimedicina.cz/en/>

Public Health activities – EM specialists are involved in educational projects in first aid and CPR on many levels. Further, EM specialists are part of interdisciplinary bodies such as the National Committee for Prevention of Children's Injuries, Cerebrovascular programme, National strategy for cardiovascular care. Members of the Board of Society for EDM are also involved in creation of legislation concerning EM.

International Activities: Czech Society for Emergency and Disaster Medicine is a federation member of EuSEM.