



POLICY STATEMENT ON EMERGENCY MEDICINE IN EUROPE

WHAT IS EMERGENCY MEDICINE?

Emergency Medicine is a specialty based on the knowledge and skills required for the prevention, diagnosis and management of urgent and emergency aspects of illness and injury affecting patients of all age groups with a full spectrum of undifferentiated physical and behavioural disorders. It is a specialty in which time is critical. The practice of Emergency Medicine encompasses the pre-hospital and in-hospital triage, resuscitation, initial assessment and management of undifferentiated urgent and emergency cases until discharge or transfer to the care of another physician or health care professional. It also includes involvement in the development of pre-hospital and in-hospital emergency medical systems.

WHAT IS THE UEMS SECTION OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE?

The Section of Emergency Medicine is one of the 39 specialist sections of the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS). Each of the 29 national associations which are full members of the UEMS is entitled to nominate two representatives as also are the 6 affiliated national associations. Representatives are invited also from other specialist UEMS sections including Paediatric Medicine and Geriatric Medicine and from the European Junior Doctors, EJD. The President of the European Society for Emergency Medicine and the European representative of the International Federation for Emergency Medicine are invited ex-officio.

WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR EMERGENCY MEDICINE

The European Society for Emergency Medicine (EuSEM) incorporates a Federation which currently includes 27 European national societies of Emergency Medicine and represents more than 17,000 medical members.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE IN EUROPE?

Emergency Medicine is currently recognised as an independent specialty in 18 member states of the European Union (although only 9 are listed in the EU Directive 2005/36/EC) and in two EU countries it exists as a supra-specialty. The UEMS Section of Emergency Medicine and the European Society for Emergency Medicine consider that the provision of high quality emergency care requires physicians with specialised training in Emergency Medicine because this is the most effective way (in both clinical and financial terms) to provide high quality care during the critical initial stages of emergency treatment. It is thus recommended that all other European countries should work towards the establishment of Emergency Medicine as a primary medical specialty.

WHAT ARE THE PRINCIPLES of the POLICY of the UEMS SECTION and EuSEM?

The UEMS specialist Section and the European Society for Emergency Medicine seek to ensure:

- The highest quality of emergency care for all patients
- The delivery of such care by specialists trained in Emergency Medicine
- A comparable standard of clinical care in Emergency Departments across Europe

In order to achieve these objectives the UEMS specialist Section and EuSEM have the following aims:

- European competency-based core curriculum to include:
 - Patient Care
 - Medical Knowledge
 - Communication, collaboration and interpersonal skills
 - Professionalism, ethical and legal issues
 - Organisational planning and service management skills
 - Academic activities – education and research
- Education and training programmes to deliver this core curriculum
- Assessment and examination structure to confirm that the necessary competencies have been acquired
- Clinical standards and a robust audit programme to ensure that these standards are being achieved
- Research projects to contribute to the development of an international evidence base for the specialty
- Inclusion of Emergency Medicine as a core part of the medical undergraduate curriculum

WHAT TRAINING SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO PRACTISE EMERGENCY MEDICINE IN EUROPE?

The EU Doctors' Directive requires that training in Emergency Medicine should be for a minimum of five years. A multi-national Task Force of EuSEM in conjunction with the UEMS Multidisciplinary Joint Committee on Emergency Medicine (which existed prior to the development of the Section) agreed a comprehensive Core Curriculum for Emergency Medicine in Europe. This curriculum includes the principles involved in the establishment and organisation of training programmes of comparable standard in recognised departments across Europe and was formally endorsed by the Council of UEMS on 25 April 2009.

SUMMARY of POLICY of the UEMS SECTION of EMERGENCY MEDICINE and of EuSEM

The main objective of the UEMS Section of Emergency Medicine and of the European Society for Emergency Medicine is that the specialty of Emergency Medicine should continue to develop to the standards endorsed by the Council of UEMS to seek to ensure the highest quality of emergency care for patients. This care should be delivered by physicians trained in Emergency Medicine.