Emergency Medical Service Systems

A Global Perspective

Shakti Kumar Gupta • Sunil Kant • Angel Rajan Singh



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CHAPTER 4

Emergency Medical Services in Ireland

Jason van der Velde

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INTRODUCTION

India and Ireland are very similar—they are closely attached to the families, have lots of poverty, are well educated and have vast rural areas which makes it difficult to provide Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The solutions for EMS problems of the two countries may also be similar.

Medico Cork provides emergency medical technician (EMT) services to:

- Maritime Users
- Coast Guard
- Military
- Islands
- EMS.

EMS IN IRELAND

In Ireland EMS is at great distances. There are only two centers which can handle neurosurgical trauma and are half a day distance from many areas.

Figure 4.1 show the ambulance distribution. Unfortunately the ambulance distribution does not reflect the population density as there are newly developed areas.

EMS in Ireland is one of the world's best with latest technologies and ever evolving towards betterment. This has been possible due to legislation. Ten separate laws were passed to tie up emergency care. Prehospital Emergency Care Council has a statutory agreement as a regulator to provide the framework and standards of emergency care.

The vast majority of the EMS team are the community first responders, next is the emergency first responders who are provided modular trainings. The advance paramedic training is put on hold to allow existing advanced paramedics to get more exposure.

There is complete standardization of the ambulance and the response for meeting each emergency situation. The community is the first level of care. If any incident happens within 15 Kms of mobile phone, one gets an alert.

Training is given for first aid and an untrained person cannot even provide first aid. Prehospital emergencey care is a vital part of emergency care and in Ireland it does not matter, whether one can pay or not, people of all levels get the same kind of treatment. Even though there is 50% private practice, all emergency care is independent whether one can pay for the care or not.

Coast Guard helicopters are being used to carry patients from coastal areas to neurosurgical centers where they can receive emergency care (Fig. 4.2). The problem with the helicopter is that there is no landing sight as of now.

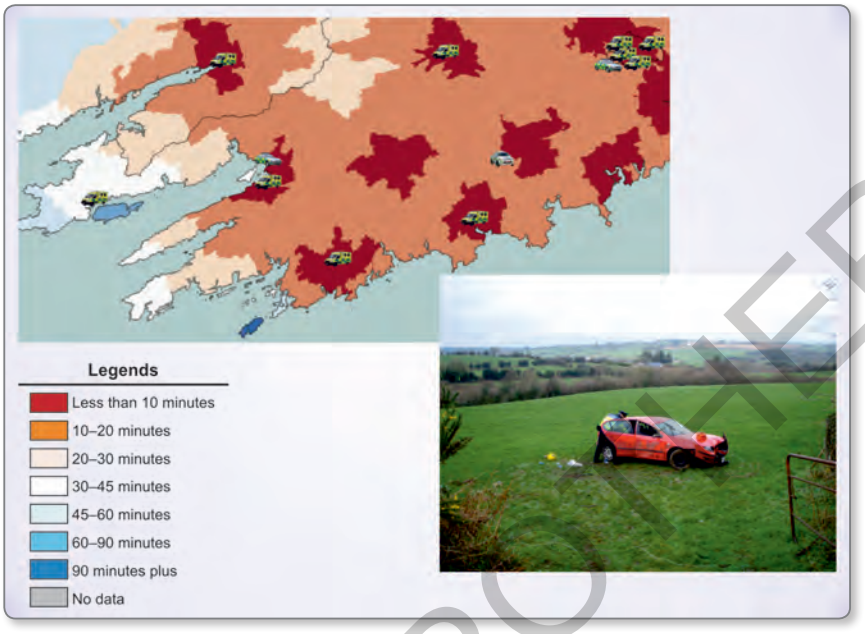

Fig. 4.1: Ambulance Distribution in Ireland



Fig. 4.2: Use of Coast Guard Helicopters to Carry Emergency Patients

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Fig. 4.3: ePCR Sheet

STANDARDS OF CARE

In Ireland, no guidelines are adopted for emergency care. Adoption is done from best of the guidelines, put into practice and recommendations are sought. As of now there are over 250 guidelines from prehospital care to complex emergency care. The standards enable the paramedics to give 36 drugs on their own without prescription, which is highest in the world.

All the cases are recorded, audited and feeback provided to the system which helps in further improvement. There is a single sheet which all the emergency care handlers have to fill and this is common for all levels. This sheet is then recorded into ePCR (Fig. 4.3) which is a common nationwise data sheet.

There is a system to grade any major event so that preparation can be done beforehand to tackle the event.

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Emergency Medical Service Systems
A Global Perspective

A multiauthor holistic book encompassing the views of Indian and Foreign experts. It features the principles and practices of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Systems in various countries including planning, design, research, process and quality variables.

Excellent guide for all EMS issues including:

- Planning and Design
- Historical Facts
- Processes and Protocols
- Policy-making
- Operational and Strategic Imperatives
- Research

Valuable accompaniment for various stakeholders in EMS systems including:

- Hospital Administrators
- Clinicians
- Policy Planners
- Researchers

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