

## **Scottish Ambulance Service Paramedic Practice Programme**

The following information will describe 3 areas of the Paramedic Practice Course (PPC). These are:-

- Entry onto the program
- The present 6 week residential course
- 750 hours Practice Placement

### **Entry onto the program**

At present entrance onto the Scottish Ambulance Service PPC would require evidence of either:-

- Current IHCD Technician Registration, as well as successful completion of the Foundation academic assignments also known as module J. (Details within the Foundation course)
- Successful completion of Paramedic Foundation Course

Potential candidates would then be asked to a practical assessment, and, thereafter, if successful, be invited to an interview.

### **The 6 week residential course**

Those successful in complying with pre-entry criteria for the PPC would then secure a place on the aforementioned 6 week residential course. This area of PPC training and education is held at the Scottish Ambulance College, at Barony Castle, Eddleston near to Peebles.

The six week programme is divided into 3 modules; G, H and I covering IHCD objectives set out for the course. The outline content of each module is below followed by a brief outline of the assessment and progression process.

Module G is covered in 3 weeks. It involves underpinning theory around the respiratory, circulatory and nervous systems, and, clinical application of this knowledge. Also considered are associated illnesses and related pharmacology. Module G also contains practical elements related to airway management including intubation and LMA, as well as advanced practical skills such as; thoracocentesis, cricothyroidotomy and IV cannulation with fluid administration. There is also an emphasis throughout on patient assessment and management in terms of both primary surveys: - negative and positive.

In Module H students study aspects of theory and practical associated with pre-hospital trauma care.

The SAC element of the process concludes with Module I covering paediatrics in week one, and, assessment in pregnancy and neonate resuscitation in week two.

Student's progression on each module of the course is subject to continuous assessment via formative theory papers and syndicate practical work (led by a Paramedic Educational Specialist). Summative modular assessments are held in both theory and practical.

Students completing all modular competencies are then in a position to be recommended for practice placement.

### **750 hours Practice Placement**

Practice placement involves a period of 750 hours. This element involves placement within various hospital departments acquiring competency in skills such as intubation and cannulation, mentored 'on road' experience, as well as completion of an academic assignment.

On successful completion of the PPC, candidates are thereafter in a position to apply for HPC registration.