



Scottish Ambulance Service

Standard Operating Procedure- Deployment of Paramedic Response Units

Aim

To ensure that Scottish Ambulance Service Paramedic Response Units (PRU) are deployed in a safe, efficient and effective manner.

Application

National Co-ordination Centre (NCCC)
Ambulance Control Centre's (ACC's)
All Operational Managers
PRU Operatives

Background

The Scottish Ambulance Service operates Paramedic Response Units staffed with a single Paramedic on each vehicle. These vehicles are usually operated in the urban areas although not exclusively so.

Policy

The Scottish Ambulance Service specifically targets Paramedic Response Units to life threatening calls to ensure the fastest response by a Paramedic, or any other call identified through the PDA as suitable for a solo Paramedic resource (non conveying) and to undertake scene assessment and triage. It is recognised there may be occasions when it is also appropriate to dispatch a PRU to an Amber call. When dispatching a PRU to a call due consideration should be given to the correct application of the Scottish Ambulance Service lone worker policy.

Procedure

- PRUs can be deployed to Purple coded calls as part of a triple response.
- PRUs must be deployed to all ILT (Purple/Red) calls immediately where they are identified as the closest paramedic resource.
- PRUs will be despatched to Amber calls where there is no available conveying resource within a 25 minute response time¹.
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- For coded ILT Calls, back-up to a PRU should be assigned immediately, in line with the PDA. When deployed the back up resource will only be diverted to another unallocated coded ILT (Purple/Red) when it is the closest resource and the PRU operative must be informed.
- When deployed to non ILT calls, The PRU operative is responsible for contacting the ACC to request the appropriate level of back up. This back up may be:

¹ Refer to 003 and 004 policies

Owner: [REDACTED]	Version No: V6.0	Doc & page: SOP Deployment of PRUs Page 1 of 2	Review arrangements: [REDACTED]
Date of Release: 08/05/17 Reviewed: May 2018	Date Intranet Posting: Review : April 2017	Implementation: 07:00 8/5/17 Review : April 2018	Approved by: [REDACTED]
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- **ILT response required. (Level 1)** This back up should not be diverted unless required for an unallocated coded ILT call.
- **Emergency response (Level 2).** As per final dispatch code
- **Urgent response (Level 3).** This will be considered to be a two hour response.
- The PRU will also be sent to non ILT calls identified through the PDA as suitable for solo response. In such cases the PRU will not be backed up automatically. If a back up resource is required the above procedure should be followed.
- Following original allocation to the data screen of the PRU all subsequent communication must be by voice call.

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