

Ambulance Staff Survey on Alternative Response Schemes SYAS Paramedic Practitioners

Occupation / grade: Urgent crew Technician Paramedic

Number of years with ambulance service:

Level of awareness of PP scheme

Did you know there was a PP scheme in Sheffield?

Y / N

If Yes:

What do you know about the scheme?

Over 60s	999 calls (+urgent not seen)	minor injuries / conditions	home treatment	ED fast tracking eg to radiography	Involves paramedics with additional training and skills	Can include social aspects of care	Calls referred to the scheme by other ambulance crews	other
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Have you referred to the scheme?

No	Once	1-5 times	>5 times
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– if yes, any problems with this?

No	Time delay to PP attendance	Leaving patients alone	PP busy	PP not contactable via control	PP refused to attend	PP on “off week”	Other:
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- if no, why not?

No suitable patients	Disagree with scheme	Don't consider it good for patients	Don't know	other
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Thoughts on the PP scheme

Have you received adequate information about the scheme itself (e.g. patient criteria)?

Y / N

What do you think have been the effects of PP scheme on traditional ambulance service duties?

No effect		
Worse	Why?	PPs still on the rota as paramedics but not available.
		Other:
Better	Why?	Clears 999 crews for “normal” emergencies quicker.
		Other:

Should all paramedics be trained to the same level as the PPs?

Y / N

How do you think a PP is paid compared with an equivalently experienced paramedic?

More / less / same

What do you think the working conditions of a PP are like compared with an equivalently experienced paramedic?

Better / worse / same

Do you think ambulance staff already do what the PPs do anyway?

All the time	Some of the time	Not really	No, never
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Would you like to have the additional training and skills to assess and treat patients on scene as the PPs do?

Y / N

Do you think this is a good way of dealing with patients who call 999 but may not need urgent transport and hospital treatment?

Y / N / DK

If no, why not and what other mechanisms can you suggest?

Are there other groups of patients who should receive this type of service?

Y / N / DK

If yes, which? All. Other:

Were the PPs selected in a fair and appropriate manner?

Y / N / DK

If no, why not?

What do you understand to be the reason why such alternative response schemes like this are being promoted?

To reduce the number of older people having a poor experience in the ED, especially when they don't clinically need to be there anyway.

Other:

Knowledge of PP research project

Do you know if the PP scheme is part of a research trial at present?

Y / N / DK

The PP scheme is part of a research trial at present.

Is it important that the PP scheme is evaluated fully by a research trial?

Important	Don't know	Not important
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Do you know why the PP scheme is not always operational one week to the next?

To allow randomisation of patients for research purposes	Other	No
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Views on SYAS

Do you enjoy your job – use scale below:

Very much		Not at all

Do you think SYAS is a good employer?

excellent	good	average	below average	poor

Other Issues

The national shortage of doctors will become more acute in the next few years especially at junior doctor level, do you think paramedics could / should work as part of an in-hospital team dealing with emergencies?

Y / N / DK

Any other comments