



**Scottish
Ambulance
Service**

University National NHS Board



Freedom of Information Request

22nd July 2024

Question

I would be grateful if you could provide the following as I compile reports from trusts & other services.

- i) Please provide any and all training material used in the training of VQ4 Student/Trainee technicians during the 10 week clinical training, this includes material for the 4 week CERAD course. Examples would be power points presented on the course, information on books used and anything similar.
- ii) If possible, please provide mock or older exams /OSCE material that is no longer used and available for release, please include material for the clinical course as well as CERAD.
- iii) Please provide holding pool stats for upcoming trainee EMT/Technicians waiting to get onto a VQ4 Course, please break this down into locality, north, west etc.

Answer

Disclosure under FOISA is full disclosure, to the world at large. It cannot be restricted to a particular group or purpose. It is for this reason that we have applied section 30(c) of FOISA in that disclosing any and all training material for the VQ4 course would otherwise prejudice substantially, or be likely to prejudice substantially, the effective conduct of public affairs.

Trainee Technicians are enrolled on the Diploma for Associate Ambulance Practitioners, a qualification that sits at level 4 on the Regulated Qualifications Framework. The programme consists of a 12-week classroom period involving both online self-directed learning and face-to-face teaching and a 50-week practice placement period that allows learner to consolidate their newly found knowledge and skills in a real environment. The qualification covers:

- Own Role, Professional Conduct and Communication in the Emergency and Urgent Care Setting
- Ethics and Person-centred Care in the Emergency and Urgent Care Setting
- Health and Safety in the Emergency and Urgent Care Setting
- Anatomy, Physiology, and Patient Assessment and Examination in the Emergency and Urgent Care Setting
- Life Support in the Emergency and Urgent Care Setting
- Management of Medical Emergencies, Conditions and Traumatic Injury in the Emergency and Urgent Care Setting
- Supporting Individuals with Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Dementia in the Emergency and Urgent Care Setting
- Frailty, End of Life Care and Bereavement in the Emergency and Urgent Care Setting



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Learners enrolled on the course will undertake formal knowledge based and practical assessments during the classroom period including Multiple Choice Questionnaires, short written assessments, simulated scenarios and objectively structured clinical examinations (OSCEs). Assessment during the Practice Placement element will mainly be observational and completion of a Practice Assessment Document (PAD) but other assessment methods may be drawn upon to ensure learners are competent in all areas.

VQ4 Student/Trainee technicians are enrolled on the Certificate of Emergency Response Ambulance Driving (CERAD), a qualification that sits at level 6 on the Regulated Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Framework. The programme consists of a 3-week 2-day mix of theory and practical sessions which take place in a classroom and live practical driving environments. The course includes both self-directed learning and face-to-face teaching, which are theory and practical sessions. Practical sessions are on a 3:1 basis with a dedicated Diploma in Emergency Response Ambulance Driving Instruction (DERADI) qualified instructor. The learner will carry out their practical driving in a Driver Training Unit (DTU), crew cab, which is a C1 category vehicle and reflects our frontline fleet. The qualification covers the following learning outcomes that the learner must demonstrate competence in to meet the standard required:

Component 1: Principles of Routine and Emergency Response Ambulance Driving

- Understand current driving legislation, regulation and the responsibilities of an emergency response ambulance driver.
- Understand the purpose of completing ambulance vehicle daily inspections and pre-driving checks.
- Understand procedures for driving on single carriageways, dual carriageways and motorways.
- Understand the use of an ambulance vehicle's steering, braking, transmission and acceleration systems.
- Understand the system of car control.
- Understand principles of safe cornering.
- Understand principles of overtaking when driving an ambulance vehicle under both routine and emergency response conditions.
- Understand principles of reversing and manoeuvring.
- Understand how vehicle safety systems aid in maintaining ambulance vehicle stability and control.
- Understand how human factors and actions contribute to becoming a better driver.
- Understand the effects of driving an ambulance vehicle during the hours of darkness.
- Understand emergency response ambulance driving practices.

Component 2: Class 3 Routine and Emergency Response Ambulance Driving (C1 category)

- Be able to comply with current legislation and driving regulations at all times.
- Be able to carry out pre-driving checks and inspections.
- Be able to implement procedures when driving on multi-lane carriageways.
- Be able to use ambulance vehicle controls.
- Be able to use the system of car control to approach and negotiate hazards.
- Be able to negotiate bends safely whilst driving an ambulance vehicle.
- Be able to overtake when driving an ambulance vehicle under routine and emergency response conditions.
- Be able to safely reverse, manoeuvre and position an ambulance vehicle using forward and reverse gears.

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- Be able to manage situations and human factors.
- Be able to drive an ambulance vehicle during the hours of darkness.
- Be able to drive under emergency response conditions.
- Be able to navigate under routine and emergency response ambulance driving conditions.



Learners enrolled on the course will undertake formal knowledge based and practical assessments which include 3 Multiple Choice theory assessments, observed practical skill sign offs and two practical driving assessments, one of which is conducted by an independent driving instructor. The Multi choice theory assessments include Ambulance Driving Principles: Traffic Signs, Signals and Markings, Theory Test Before Commencing On-road Training at Speed and Ambulance Driving Principles: Legislation, Roadcraft and The Highway Code. All theory assessments are conducted online using the XAMS system that Future Quals supply. Each learner has a password protected login for the system. The theory assessments are self-marked, by the system, once the learner has submitted their answers. The results are shown instantly. Learners have two attempts at each theory and practical assessment. Learners are allocated an electronic tablet at the start of the course which contains all learning material including the Roadcraft manual, Driver Training Advisory Group (DTAG) ambulance driver's manual and the Highway Code. PowerPoints and an app containing a practice theory exam is included also. The practical assessments are carried out using varying road types and environments and last for no less than 60 minutes. The learners must pass all three theory assessments and have undertaken a minimum of 24 hours behind the steering wheel before they are eligible to be able to carry out the final driving assessment. This information is available from Future Quals.

Please provide holding pool stats for upcoming trainee EMT/Technicians waiting to get onto a VQ4 Course, please break this down into locality, north, west etc.

Please see the figures below from the Region holding pools for the VQ4 course as of 19/07/2024:

- North = 12
- East = 0
- West = 43

Please note; these figures can change on a daily basis.