

Paramedicine across continents

A paramedic's lived experience

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Paramedicine was a product of wartime necessity, where 'medics' (doctors) required assistants to work out in the field with them. Over time it was recognised that these assistants were trainable to provide life-saving treatment to wounded soldiers, which lessened the burden on medics. This system was adopted within civil society resulting in the paramedics of today. This paramedic was fortunate to work in 3 countries on 3 continents over the last decade.



SOUTH AFRICA

Africa

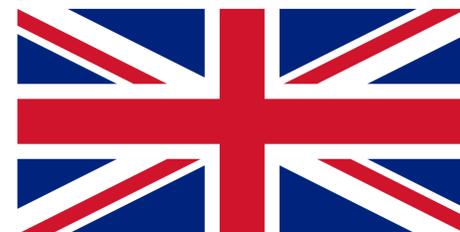
The Health Professions Council of South Africa is the regulator of registration and national scope of practice. Six categories exist from basic to ECP, ranging from vocational 5-week to tertiary 4-year education. The primary EMS industry is greatly divided between the public and private healthcare system.



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Asia

The UAE is divided into seven unique emirates. The Health Authority of Abu Dhabi and Dubai Corporation of Ambulance Services are the main regulators and follow a 3-tier PHECC education model. Local gov's are the providers of primary EMS with private entities outsourced for smaller or specialised tasks.



UNITED KINGDOM

Europe

The Health and Care Professions Council is the registration body with a single paramedic level. Local NHS ambulance trusts in conjunction with guideline agencies and NGO's provide for regulation and scope of practice. Primary EMS is provided by regional ambulance trusts, supported by foundation trusts.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

A conceptual framework was identified consisting of three pillars critical to the functioning of emergency medical services in all 3 countries:

Industry provides the patient facing component of EMS, with operational functioning and delivery of high quality emergency care to the community.

Education underpins the professional training and acquisition of skills necessary for practitioners to deliver the most appropriate treatments to the right patients.

Regulation enforces practitioner accountability through registration and adherence to professional norms and standards, both clinically and ethically.

