

more simulation-based medical educators, and also equipping standard simulation facilities in Ghana.

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Paramedic Disaster Health Management Competencies: A Scoping Review

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Study/Objective: This scoping review aims to identify, categorize and explore the existing range of paramedic disaster health management competencies that have been developed internationally. The objective of the study is to assist EMS agencies to develop core competencies specific to their own environments, in order to standardize teaching in the area of paramedic disaster health management response.

Background: Paramedics play an essential role in all phases of disaster health management. Previous research has identified potential gaps in content and challenges to the sustainability of knowledge, acquired through occasional disaster response training by paramedics. For paramedics to respond competently, they must be equipped with the necessary skills to provide comprehensive care to the populations affected by disasters. Despite this, the literature shows that education and training for disaster response is variable, and that an evidence based study specifically designed to outline sets of core competencies for Australian paramedics has never been undertaken.

Methods: A systematic scoping review will be conducted using the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) methodology. The review will use information from four databases: PubMed, MEDLINE, ScienceDirect, and Scopus. Keywords, inclusion and exclusion criteria will be identified as strategies to use in this review.

Results: will be extracted, mapped, and categorized from appropriate studies. The identified core competencies will be sorted into common domains such as communication, operations, planning, logistics, incident command systems and ethics. A descriptive analysis of the results will then be undertaken.

Conclusion: Further research is needed to develop core competencies specific to Australian paramedics, in order to standardize teaching in the area of disaster health management response. This study will assist agencies from all jurisdictions in evaluating or creating disaster curricula, that adequately prepares and maintains paramedics for an effective all hazards disaster response.

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National Standards for Higher Education Programs in Disaster Management in Australia

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Study/Objective: The aim of this project was to develop a framework for higher education programs in emergency and disaster management for Australia.

Background: The development of such standards is of considerable value to Australia as it may contribute to national policy cohesion and also to capability development. The Generic Emergency and Disaster Management Standards define the scope and the domain in order to assist higher education institutions to develop programs that provide a relatively consistent and sound intellectual basis for the expertise required.

Methods: The Generic Emergency and Disaster Management Standards were developed through a mixed qualitative research approach involving a systematic literature review, mapping of current course content, focus groups of experts and consultation with industry representatives.

Results: The standards consist of three main domains. The knowledge domain included governance and policy frameworks, theoretical and conceptual basis for practice, and contemporary disaster management, skills and application. The skills domain included leadership, communication, and collaboration. Finally professional practice together with critical thinking is considered the means by which the knowledge and skills are applied.

Conclusion: These standards are intended to provide a consistent and sound intellectual basis to assist higher education institutions to develop disaster and emergency management courses. While the focus is necessarily on the Australian context, it is recognized that University programs in Australia provide education to international students, and the methods used in developing these standards draw considerably from international sources, and thus they are likely to be of broader applicability. Additional mechanisms for the monitoring and ongoing development of these standards are required.

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The Evaluation of the Trauma and Resuscitation Course in Çanakkale 112 Emergency Medical Services, Turkey

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Study/Objective: The aim of this study is to evaluate the Trauma and Resuscitation Course (TRC) for nurses, technicians, and paramedics, carried out by Çanakkale Emergency Medical Services (ÇEMS) between January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

Background: The TRC in Turkey has been carried out by the Association of National Trauma and Emergency Surgery