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4th April 2016

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/16/03/08.

You requested the following information:

1. Do you have a paramedic practitioner like role i.e. A qualified paramedic with extended skills such as urinalysis and other enhanced assessment skills. A position that is less skilled than an Emergency Care Practitioner, but has a more enhanced scope of practice than a paramedic?

SECamb and College of Paramedics do not recognise the term "Emergency Care Practitioner" and so any comparison directly is not possible due to huge variation in education, competency and assessment of those using the outmoded term "ECP"

SECamb has a cadre of 200+ Specialist Paramedics (Urgent & Emergency Care) – known locally as Paramedic Practitioners, who undertake their role in line with the College of Paramedics career and competency framework.

They undertake a range of skills, including minor health and injury assessment and treatment.

2. If you do have a paramedic role like this what extra skills, drugs, treatment or referral pathways do your advanced paramedics have over a standard paramedic?

SECamb is currently educating a cadre of specialist paramedics to become advanced paramedics

Specialist paramedics have a wide range of skills and treatments available, such as diagnostic skills, wound management, use of PGD medicines, acute and tertiary referrals

3. If you do have an advanced paramedic role as described what pay band do they sit on?

As above, the first Advanced Paramedics will begin to graduate in 2017 and their role has yet to be job evaluated on AFC (Agenda for Change).

4. Are your advanced paramedics capped at any point in their band?

Not applicable

5. What qualifications or academic modules are needed at your trust to become an advance paramedic?

A Master's degree in Advanced Practice (or equivalent) to include topics such as advanced decision making, leadership, ethics, research for practice etc

6. What pay band are the paramedics in your trust paid at?

Band 5 at graduate (or equivalent) level
Specialist paramedics – Band 6

7. Are paramedics capped at any point in this band?

No.

8. What pay band are paramedics who carry out the duties of mentoring or field based assessing of student paramedics paid at?

Depending on role (such team leaders) the prevailing pay band matches the core role, as supervision and mentorship is a key aspect of allied healthcare practice. SECamb has a training programme for mentors called Practice Placement Educator.

9. What qualifications does a paramedic mentor/field based assessor need at your trust?

As above – 15/20 credit HEI module to achieve status of PPEd

10. Do you receive any funding from universities to mentor/assess external student paramedics?

Yes, our clinical education department receives funding from HKSS (Health Education, Kent, Surrey, Sussex) to offer placements for undergraduate paramedics studying at the 4 partner universities. We also receive funding to train mentors to support these students out in the field. There are a set of guidelines, governance and expectations. Each student and mentor receive a handbook to ensure they achieve the appropriate level and skill.

I hope you find this information helpful.

If, for whatever reason you are unhappy with our response, you are entitled to pursue any dissatisfaction through South East Coast Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust's (SECAMB) Internal Review Procedure at:

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
40-42 Friars Walk
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2XW
Email:complaints@secamb.nhs.uk

Should you remain unhappy with the outcome of any such internal review , you may request a decision from the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me, quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Coordinator
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust