



LONDON'S
AIR AMBULANCE
roadside intensive care



Pre-hospital Care Standard Operating Procedure

Car Missions [DA77 / DA99]

REVIEW:	May 2010	
APPROVAL/ ADOPTED:	PHC Policy Board	
DISTRIBUTION:	PHC Doctors PHC Paramedics	
RELATED DOCUMENTS:	SOP Medical Equipment Checklist SOP Vehicle Check SOP DA77 Observers SOP Satellite Navigation	
THIS DOCUMENT REFERS TO:	PHC Clinical Practice PHC Non-clinical Practice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PHC Operational Procedure	Ref: OP-6

Aims:

- To describe team responsibilities during land based missions.

Background:

DA77 is the call sign for the first medical team deployed via rapid response vehicle. This includes:

- Evening shift. Sunday - Thursday 18:00- 01:00.
- Night shift. Friday 22:00 – 07:30 & Saturday 19:00 – 07:30
- When the incident is in close proximity to the Royal London Hospital and may be reached more quickly by car than by air. (There is a predetermined footprint to indicate this area.)
- When the aircraft is not available (weather restriction / maintenance / on a mission).

On Friday evenings the duty medical team will use the call sign DA99. This team operates for the early part of the night shift 18:00 – 01:00. There will be an overlap period of 3 hours with DA77 (full night shift). DA99 will usually be staffed by Emeritus doctors. If no DA99 team is available DA77 will start the night shift at 19:00 hrs.

The DA99 call sign may also be used for a second medical team deployed via rapid response vehicle at other times.

The cars should be 'roaming' around London in a central location during evening & night shifts to allow optimal response times to calls.

Policy:

1. Medical Equipment & Vehicle Checks:

- Should be completed twice daily. (MEDIC1 team and DA77 / 99 team)
- Should be completed prior to the morning briefing at 09:00.
- Must be performed as “challenge & response” and documented in accordance with the Medical Equipment SOP and Vehicle Check SOP.
- Both the Doctor and Paramedic are required to sign that the equipment has been checked and is complete.
- Checks should take no longer than 10 minutes.

2. Activation:

If the duty crew is located at The Royal London Hospital, DA77 may be activated by the Emergency Operations Centre either via ‘Ops’ or the Medic 1 mobile phone.

- The team must proceed directly to DA77 as quickly as possible. The stab vests, cold fluids, monitor pack & heater pack must be collected from the aircraft.
- Full mission details – location, grid square should be taken in the lift. The route may be partly pre-planned using the maps in the lift.

When the duty team is in the vehicle and roaming, the team is activated by the Emergency Operations Centre via the Medic 1 (dayshift) or Medic 2 (evening shift) mobile phone. If activation occurs while ‘roaming’, the vehicle should come to a stop at the side of the road while location details are recorded. Details of the mission should be taken and transcribed to the scribble sheet.

NB. To ensure team safety while on blue light response driving, the Doctor will not inform the Paramedic of mission details, unless it is a shooting / stabbing / assault in which case body armour should be donned at time of activation.

4. Navigation and Driving:

In order to minimise time taken to get mobile, the driver (paramedic) should programme the satellite navigation system with the location whilst the navigator (doctor) finishes taking details and identifies the location in the A-Z. Both the driver & navigator should familiarise themselves with the intended route on the map before departing.

En route the driver should call out street names to help the navigator with map reading. The navigator should identify land marks en route to confirm correct map reading and location. In addition the navigator should give advanced notice of junctions to the driver.

If lost, the vehicle should be stopped at a safe place and current location identified on the map. A new route should be planned before setting off. Should any car occupant feel unwell or unsafe while en-route to the incident, the driver should be informed and appropriate action taken.

5. DA77 / 99 Drivers:

DA77 can only be driven on a mission by appropriately trained personnel. These personnel will have successfully completed the BLT pre-hospital driving assessments and the documented evidence of response driving competence must be current. It is usual practice for the Paramedic to drive on blue light response calls.

6. DA77 / 99 Navigation Training:

During the training month the registrar is expected to become familiar with the operation of DA77 / 99. One of the most difficult aspects is map reading and navigating en-route to an incident. To improve these skills the training registrar should practice map reading while the vehicle is "roaming". In addition, the major roads north, south, east and west of the RLH and Emergency Operations Centre at Waterloo must become familiar. Each HEMS doctor must be "signed off" by Paul Smith as competent in navigation skills prior to the formal "sign-off" day as Medic 1.

7. DA77 / 99 Observers:

Observers should be briefed by the DA77 / 99 Doctor at the start of the shift [refer to DA77 Observer Standard Operating Policy] and must complete the required paperwork prior to leaving the helipad.