

“Pre-Hospital Care in Ireland – Innovation Needed”

-Reader Response to IMJ Article-

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Sir,

I note with interest the recent editorial by Bury and Barry on the need for innovation in pre hospital care.¹

I agree that there is a need for innovation in pre hospital emergency care in Ireland. Happily, this is well underway within the ambulance services, PHECC and the wider health service.

Among the areas identified in the editorial, the concepts of community paramedic, critical care paramedic and ‘treat & refer’ were adopted as core strategic objectives of the Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council Medical Advisory Committee 18 months ago and are being progressed.

We look forward to the creation of a new grade of ‘Specialist Paramedic’ underpinned by primary legislation which, along with other developments, will facilitate both the further advancement of the paramedic profession and enhancement of the level of care available to patients in Ireland.

A critical care specialist paramedic will be in a position to facilitate high level pre hospital care of seriously ill/injured patients and conveyance to a Trauma Centre for example. A community specialist paramedic, or a paramedic operating under a ‘treat & refer’ guideline, will be able to facilitate alternative care pathways for a cohort of lower acuity patients closer to their home and out with the acute hospital system.

The above will not occur in isolation, but rather in collaboration with the ambulance services, the National Ambulance Service Critical Care and Retrieval Services, academic institutions, the National Trauma Office, National Clinical Programmes and other stakeholders.

Yours Sincerely,

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References:

1. Bury, G. and Barry, T. Pre Hospital Care in Ireland – Innovation Needed. Irish Medical Journal, December 2019.