



*Pulse South Coast*  
Training & Medical Services

# **EVENT MEDICAL PROVISION GUIDE**

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## 2. INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL PROVISION AT EVENTS

### Purpose

Medical provision is a crucial component of any event's risk management strategy. Its purpose is to ensure the well-being of attendees, staff, and participants by implementing pre-planned medical support. It involves not only reacting to emergencies but also creating an environment where safety is prioritized.

### Scope

This guide applies to a variety of event types, such as festivals, concerts, community gatherings, and sports events. It is structured to provide a framework for event organisers, health and safety managers, and medical teams in assessing, planning, and implementing medical services tailored to each event's unique needs.

### Key Considerations

Each event is unique, and its medical requirements must be tailored accordingly. Organisers should ensure that a comprehensive medical needs assessment is conducted, considering factors such as expected crowd size, type of activities, attendee demographics, environmental conditions, and historical data of similar events. The assessment should outline potential scenarios and the level of medical cover required to manage both routine and emergency situations.

### Compliance and Best Practices

Pulse South Coast Ltd's medical provision strategy is based on the Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974, as well as the guidance from the Purple Guide and HSG195, which are key resources for managing health and safety in the event industry. The primary objectives are to reduce risk, provide adequate response capabilities, and ensure that all staff are trained to handle any foreseeable emergencies.

## 3. UNDERSTANDING EVENT MEDICAL NEEDS

### Event Risk Assessment

Each event is unique, and so are its medical needs. Therefore, a thorough risk assessment should be conducted, which includes:

- **Event Demographics:** Consider the age, health conditions, and expected behaviours of attendees. For example, a children's festival will require paediatric expertise, while a sports event may need trauma specialists.
- **Event Activities:** Different activities pose different risks. For instance, events involving alcohol consumption are more likely to require detox services, whereas high-energy sports events may demand acute injury management.
- **Environmental Conditions:** Weather, terrain, and accessibility should be factored into the planning. Extreme temperatures may increase the risk of heatstroke or hypothermia, and uneven terrain can lead to sprains or falls.
- **History of Similar Events:** Reviewing past incidents can provide valuable insights into common medical issues and required staffing levels.

The Purple Guide recommends a “risk-based approach,” where the size and nature of the event dictate the type and amount of medical resources needed. Key areas of focus should be the likelihood of incidents, the potential severity of outcomes, and the number of people affected

### Medical Staffing Ratios

The following tiered approach can be used to categorise events and determine the level of staffing and equipment required:

- **Tier 1 (Very Low Risk):** Less than 500 attendees, minimal alcohol consumption, no high-risk activities. Coverage may be limited to first responders or a basic first aid kit.
- **Tier 2 (Low Risk):** 500–2,000 attendees, low alcohol consumption, minimal drug use. Requires a dedicated first aid resource, led by a healthcare professional.
- **Tier 3 (Moderate Risk):** 2,000–5,000 attendees, alcohol/drug use likely, moderate injury risk. Full-time paramedics, nurses, and a clinical lead.
- **Tier 4 (High Risk):** 5,000–10,000 attendees, high alcohol/drug use, multiple days. Advanced clinical support with paramedics, doctors, and multiple ambulances.
- **Tier 5 (Very High Risk):** Over 10,000 attendees, complex activities, high injury risk. Full-scale medical facilities including trauma care, specialist services, and mass casualty response capabilities

Ratios should be adjusted based on factors such as event location, crowd behaviour, and expected medical demand.

### The Purple Guide Suggestion for Medical Staffing Ratios:

Tier (with typical advances)	Medical Cover Recommendation	May be Considered
<b>Tier 1 &lt;500</b>	At very low-risk events: First Aider & First Aid Kit At low-risk events: 1-2 First Responders Access to a nearby defibrillator	Defibrillator on site
<b>Tier 2 500 - 2000</b>	Clinical Lead – normally HCP 2-4 First Responders Defibrillators	Paramedic Crewed Ambulance
<b>Tier 3 2001 – 5000</b>	Clinical Lead – HCP 2 Paramedics 2 Nurses 4 First Responders Defibrillators	Doctor Crewed Ambulance
<b>Tier 4 5001 – 10,000</b>	Clinical Lead – HCP Doctor 2 Paramedics 2 Nurses 6 First Responders Crewed Ambulance(s) Defibrillator(s)	

<p><b>Tier 5a</b> <b>10,001 – 20,000</b></p>	<p>Clinical Lead – HCP Doctor 2 Paramedics 3 Nurses 8 First Responders Crewed Ambulance(s) Defibrillator(s)</p>	
<p><b>Tier 5b</b> <b>20,001 – 50,000</b></p>	<p>2 Doctors 3 Paramedics 4 Nurses 10 First Responders Crewed Ambulances Defibrillators</p>	<p>Control Staff X-ray Facilities Mental Health Facilities</p>
<p><b>Tier 5c</b> <b>Over 50,000</b></p>	<p>3 Doctors 4 Paramedics 6 Nurses 12 First Responders Crewed Ambulances Defibrillators</p>	<p>Control Staff X-ray Facilities Mental Health Facilities Other services, eg physiotherapy, emergency dentistry</p>

### Medical Planning for Various Event Types

- **High-Risk Events (e.g., Motorsports):** Require trauma-trained personnel and dedicated evacuation routes.
- **Family-Friendly Events:** Paediatric-trained staff and child safeguarding procedures are essential.
- **Large-Scale Festivals:** Multiple medical centres, designated triage areas, and standby transport to local hospitals.

The event’s medical plan should include contingency plans for potential scenarios like severe weather, structural collapse, or public health emergencies

## 4. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEDICAL TEAM

### Event Lead

The Event Lead plays a pivotal role in the planning of the event with the Event Manager. Their responsibilities include:

- Designing and implementing the medical plan.
- Pre-event coordination between the medical team and the event organisers.

## Medic Manager/Controller

The Medic Manager/Controller plays a pivotal role during the event as part of the safety management team. Their responsibilities include:

- Coordinating between the medical team and the event organisers during the event.
- Overseeing real-time medical operations and managing resources.

## Medical Team Composition

Depending on the event scale, the team may include:

1. **First Responders:** Handle minor injuries and provide initial assessment.
2. **Emergency Care Assistants:** Handle minor injuries and provide initial assessment and monitoring vital signs.
3. **Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs):** Capable of providing more advanced support, including administering medications and monitoring vital signs.
4. **Paramedics:** Manage critical emergencies such as cardiac arrest and major trauma.
5. **Specialist Staff:** Paediatric nurses, mental health practitioners, or event-specific personnel like water rescue teams.

For large events, having a Medical Director who supervises all health services is recommended. This structure ensures a clear command hierarchy, enabling efficient responses during critical incidents.

# 5. MANAGING MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

## Emergency Protocols

Develop a comprehensive emergency plan covering the following:

- **Evacuation Routes:** Designated escape paths for different emergency scenarios.
- **Emergency Communication Plans:** Establish clear communication lines with radios, PA systems, and mobile phones.
- **Incident Response Teams:** Assign specific roles to handle various emergency types.

## Real-Time Management

During the event, the Medical Lead should conduct regular briefings and updates. Ensure that all team members are aware of their roles and responsibilities.

Coordination with local emergency services is critical for managing severe incidents.

## Engaging with Local Health Services

The event organisers should establish early communication with nearby NHS hospitals, Ambulance Services and clinics to manage high-risk cases.

- Share event details, including location, schedule, and attendee numbers.
- Clarify transportation routes for critical cases.
- Designate liaisons for ongoing communication during the event

## 6. REQUIRED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES

### Basic First Aid Kits

First aid kits should be strategically positioned around the event site, easily accessible to both staff and volunteers. Each kit should contain:

- Assorted bandages and plasters.
- Antiseptic wipes, burn dressings, and gauze pads.
- PPE, including gloves, masks, and hand sanitizers.
- Ice packs, and basic diagnostic tools.

### Advanced Medical Provisions

For large or high-risk events, advanced medical equipment is mandatory, including:

- **AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators):** For cardiac emergencies.
- **Oxygen Therapy:** Oxygen cylinders, masks, and resuscitation bags.
- **Triage Equipment:** Trauma kits, and splints.

### Setting Up Medical Facilities

Larger events should have fully equipped medical tents or field clinics with separate areas for:

- **Triage and Assessment:** For initial evaluation and categorisation of patients.
- **Treatment Areas:** For addressing minor injuries and stabilising severe cases.
- **Observation Units:** Equipped with beds for monitoring patients until they are fit to leave or require hospital transfer.

Having on-site clinics with power supplies, lighting, and adequate ventilation is crucial for effective care delivery.

## 7. COMPLIANCE & LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

### Regulatory Compliance

Event organisers must comply with:

- **The Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974.**
- **Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations, 1999.**
- **The Purple Guide** standards, which set the benchmark for medical provision at events.

Documentation must include a detailed medical plan, risk assessments, and proof of compliance with all applicable regulations.

### Licensing and Permits

For large-scale events, specific permits may be required, such as:

- **Premises License:** For events serving alcohol or featuring entertainment.

- **Temporary Event Notice (TEN):** For smaller-scale activities.
- **Traffic Management Orders:** If road closures or traffic diversions are involved.

All documentation should be shared with local authorities and emergency services well in advance to ensure a coordinated response.

## 8. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FEEDBACK

### Post-Event Evaluation

After the event, the event organiser should conduct a comprehensive debrief with all medical provider to review the effectiveness of medical provisions.

### Actionable Improvements

Implement changes based on feedback, focusing on areas like:

- Equipment availability.
- Response times.
- Staffing levels.

## 9. FINAL THOUGHTS

### Commitment to Safety

Pulse South Coast Ltd is dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of safety and emergency care, guided by industry best practices and regulatory compliance.

## 10. REFERENCES

- **The Purple Guide:** A comprehensive resource for managing safety and medical provisions at UK events. You can access it through the official website: [The Purple Guide](#).
- **Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974:** Provides the primary legal framework for ensuring health and safety in the workplace and for public events. Refer to the UK Government's documentation for details: [Health and Safety at Work Act](#).
- **Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations, 1999:** These regulations outline employer responsibilities for managing risks and safety procedures. You can access the official text here: [Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations](#).
- **HSG195 Event Safety Guide:** Known as the "Purple Guide," this document offers practical guidance on event safety management. Available through HSE publications: [Event Safety Guide \(HSG195\)](#).
- **UK Government Guidance on Event Licensing:** Provides information on when events require a license and what documentation is necessary. You can find more information here: [Event Licensing Guidance](#).
- **Care Quality Commission (CQC) Guidance:** Guidelines for ambulance services and medical providers who undertake patient transport services. Access more details: [CQC Guidance](#).