



EVENT MEDICAL PROVISION GUIDE – SPORTING EVENTS

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2. INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL PROVISION AT EVENTS

Purpose

Medical provision is an essential part of event safety management. This document provides event organizers with the necessary information to plan and implement appropriate medical cover for their events, ensuring spectator and participant safety.

Scope

This guide applies to all events taking place at sports grounds or large venues, including sports matches, concerts, and public gatherings. It serves as a resource for organizers unfamiliar with medical provision requirements.

Key Considerations

Organisers should conduct a thorough risk assessment to determine:

- The estimated number of attendees and their demographics.
- The nature of activities being held and potential injury risks.
- The environmental conditions that may affect safety, such as extreme weather.
- The history of similar events and any recorded medical incidents.

Compliance and Best Practices

Medical provision at events should follow:

- The Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) to ensure safe working conditions.
- The Safety of Sports Grounds Act (1975) which mandates safety requirements for stadiums and large venues.
- Recommendations from the Green Guide, the industry-standard reference for sports ground safety.

3. UNDERSTANDING MEDICAL NEEDS AT SPORTING GROUNDS

Medical Risk Assessment

A medical risk assessment is the foundation of safe event planning. This assessment should examine:

- **Physical Infrastructure:** Accessibility for emergency responders, placement of first aid stations, and evacuation routes.
- **Potential Risks:** Any hazardous activities or high-risk behaviours expected at the event.
- **Crowd Management:** Spectator density, movement flow, and historical incident rates.
- **Potential Risks:** Any hazardous activities or high-risk behaviours expected at the event.

Medical Planning

A well prepared **medical plan** should include:

- Clearly defined roles and responsibilities for medical staff.
- The number and location of first aid stations and medical rooms.
- The required medical equipment and supplies.
- A communication system that allows medical teams to coordinate efficiently.

4. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEDICAL TEAM

Crowd Doctor

A Crowd Doctor is a medical professional with expertise in pre-hospital care, required at events expecting over 2,000 spectators. They oversee medical response teams and provide advanced care if needed.

Paramedics & First Aiders

First aiders and paramedics are responsible for handling minor injuries and providing emergency care.

- A minimum of **2 first aiders** should be present at all events.
- The ratio should be 1 first aider per 1,000 spectators up to 10,000 attendees, and 1 per 2,000 spectators beyond this.
- All medical personnel must be trained and briefed on their duties before the event.

Ambulance Provision

Spectator Attendance	Ambulance Requirement
5,000 - 25,000	1 paramedic ambulance, 1 statutory officer
25,000 - 45,000	1 paramedic ambulance, 1 major incident unit
45,000+	2 paramedic ambulances, 1 control unit

5. MANAGING MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Emergency Protocols

A clear and structured emergency protocol must be in place, including:

- **Evacuation Routes:** Clearly marked and free of obstructions.
- **Triage Procedures:** A system to assess the severity of injuries and allocate resources accordingly.
- **Crowd Control Measures:** Trained staff must manage movements to prevent panic and congestion.

Communication & Coordination

- All medical teams should be connected via a **dedicated radio channel**.
- The event medical team should have direct contact with **local ambulance services and hospitals**.
- A designated **Medical Lead** should coordinate emergency responses and oversee medical staff.

6. REQUIRED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES

First Aid Room Requirements

Every event must have a **designated first aid room** that:

- Is **at least 15m²** for small venues and **25m²** for larger venues (over 15,000 spectators).
- Has **running water, heating, and adequate lighting**.

- Is positioned **for quick access by emergency responders**.

Equipment & Storage

All medical stations must have:

- **AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators)**: For cardiac emergencies.
- **Oxygen Therapy**: Oxygen cylinders, masks, and resuscitation bags.
- **Sharps and biohazard disposal units**: for safe medical waste management.

7. COMPLIANCE & LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Health & Safety Compliance

All event organisers are legally responsible for medical provision at their venue. Compliance includes:

- Conducting risk assessments as required by the **Health & Safety at Work Act (1974)**.
- Ensuring medical provisions are documented in the **event licensing application**.
- Following all relevant government and local authority safety regulations.

Inspections & Records

Medical provisions should be inspected and documented as follows:

- **Pre-event medical checks** to confirm staff and equipment readiness.
- **Post-event debriefing** with medical teams to review performance and incident handling.
- **Incident logs** must be maintained for all treatments and medical responses.

8. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FEEDBACK

Post-Event Evaluation

After each event, a formal debrief should be conducted to evaluate:

- **Response times** for medical incidents.
- Adequacy of medical facilities and personnel.
- Effectiveness of communication between medical teams and event organisers.

Actionable Improvements

- **Update risk assessments** based on findings from previous events.
- **Adjust staffing levels** to improve future response times.
- **Improve emergency procedures** where gaps are identified.

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 Green Guide:** (Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds) – Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA)
 - Provides comprehensive guidance on spectator safety and medical provision at sports venues.
 - Available at: www.sgsa.org.uk.
- **Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974:**
 - Establishes the duty of care for employers, including event organizers, regarding workplace and public safety.
 - Available at: www.legislation.gov.uk
- **Safety of Sports Grounds Act (1975):**
 - Regulates safety measures at designated sports grounds.
 - Available at: www.legislation.gov.uk
- **Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999):**
 - Covers risk assessments and responsibilities for ensuring workplace and public safety at events.
 - Available at: www.legislation.gov.uk
- **Emergency Planning and Response for Major Events:**
 - Outlines procedures for emergency planning, medical response, and coordination with emergency services.
 - Available at: www.gov.uk
- **First Aid at Work Guidance – Health and Safety Executive (HSE):**
 - Sets out first aid provisions required for workplaces, including public events.
 - Available at: www.hse.gov.uk