



**Prehospital Emergency Services
Current Awareness Update
Issue 99, December 2022/January 2023**

The aim of this Current Awareness Update is to provide a digest of information supporting evidence based practice in prehospital emergency services.

The issue name relates to when the contained articles were published- the bulletin is published the following month once the national bulletin has been issued.

This is an edited version of
the update for SWASFT staff

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Prehospital Emergency Services Current Awareness Update – Issue 99, Dec 22-Jan 2023

With thanks to Matt Holland, LKS ASE Librarian (on behalf of the National Ambulance Research Steering Group).
This Current Awareness Update was commissioned by the National Ambulance Research Steering Group comprising of research leads from ambulance trusts in England, Scotland and Wales and other experts and groups supporting prehospital research. The aim of the group is to support the strategic development of ambulance and prehospital research whether leading, collaborating in or using research.

The research papers have been arranged by the topic headings below:

[Prehospital Practitioners – Professional Development](#)

[Prehospital Research – Methods and Discussion](#)

[Diagnosis & Triage](#)

[Patient Profile](#)

[Helicopter Emergency Medical Services](#)

[On-Scene Interventions](#)

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Patient Profile

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Older People

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Other Patients

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Helicopter Emergency Medical Services

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Further Research Needed

*Boland, LL., et al. (2023). A Retrospective, Single-Agency Analysis of Ambulance Crashes during a 3-Year Period: Association with EMS Driver Characteristics and a Telematics-Measured Safe Driving Score. *Prehospital emergency care, Online First*.

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CONCLUSION: Most ambulance crashes are minor events, but the proportion that result in injury and/or functional or disabling vehicle damage may be as high as one-third. Poor driver compliance with objectively measured safe driving behaviors may increase risk for collisions independent of driver sex and age. **The EMS industry would benefit from additional studies that examine the full spectrum of ambulance crashes and expand understanding of EMS driver-related risk factors.**

*Hichisson, A., et al. (2023). Paramedic practice in low light conditions: a scoping review [research-article]. *Journal of Paramedic Practice*, 15(1).

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CONCLUSION: Visual function testing can assess paramedics' visual health and ability to undertake critical tasks. Adjustments may help to improve conditions. Regular occupational health assessments could identify paramedics who need support. **Further research should explore levels of visual function and practical adjustments needed for safe clinical practice.**

*Scott, J., et al. (2023). Paediatric frequent use of emergency medical services: a systematic review. *Emergency Medicine Journal*, 40(1).

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CONCLUSION: The broad range of reasons for frequent use suggests that a single intervention is unlikely to be effective at addressing the causes of frequent use. **There is a need for further research to better identify the underlying reasons for frequent EMS use among paediatric patients and to develop interventions in this population.**

*Stadeli, KM., et al. (2023). Perceptions of Prehospital Care for Patients With Limited English Proficiency Among Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics. *JAMA network open*, 6(1).

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CONCLUSION: In this study, EMS providers described many barriers to high-quality care during prehospital emergency response for patients with LEP [Limited English Proficiency] yet were unaware that these barriers impacted quality of care. Barriers including ineffective interpretation, provider bias, distrust of EMS, and cultural differences may contribute to outcome disparities and overutilization of resources. **Future work should focus on the development of targeted interventions to improve modifiable barriers to care, such as improving interpretation and cultural humility and increasing trust.**

*Watkins, P. M., et al. (2023). The prehospital management of ambulance-attended adults who fell: A scoping review - Australasian Emergency Care. *Australasian Emergency Care*, 26(1), 45-53.

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CONCLUSION: The relationship between patient characteristics, falls and resulting injuries were well described in the literature. Other evidence about EMS management in prehospital settings was limited. **Further research regarding prehospital interventions, transport decisions and alternative care pathways in the prehospital setting is recommended.**

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- Grief on the Front Lines : Reckoning with Trauma, Grief, and Humanity in Modern Medicine
- Management of Portfolios, Programmes and Projects : A practical guide for leaders and decision-makers
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- Netter's Clinical Anatomy
- Patient-Reported Outcomes and Experience : Measuring What We Want from PROMs and PREMs
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