

Medical Emergency Doctors Service

A BASICS affiliated scheme

Charity No: 1039032

Summary of Weekend Shift September 2019 to March 2019

Executive Summary

MEDSERVE Wales have been providing an enhanced care car team shift to the South Wales area on a weekend evening from October 2018 for a trial period of 6 months.

Introduction

MEDSERVE WALES is a medical charity providing assistance on a 24 hours a day basis to the people of Wales and specifically to the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST). Volunteer practitioners are available to assist WAST staff with emergency, life-threatening situations throughout the South Wales area, and are the only enhanced care support regularly available in South Wales between 2000 and 0800. These highly skilled and dedicated clinicians – from a medical, nursing and paramedic background - provide enhanced care for patients with serious medical and traumatic conditions.

In 2018 MEDSERVE Wales was given a grant by the Welsh Assembly Government to buy equipment so that the charity could continue its enhanced care service over the next 5 years. This has enabled the charity to expand its membership and we are now providing an enhanced care car service to assist Welsh Ambulance NHS Trust, in addition to the solo response that is available 24 hours a day. The 2 practitioner plus trainee/observer model, as used in other successful BASICS schemes throughout the country, will be an educational platform to give experience and development to medical, nursing and paramedic staff which is very difficult to obtain in other areas.

Shifts timing / make up

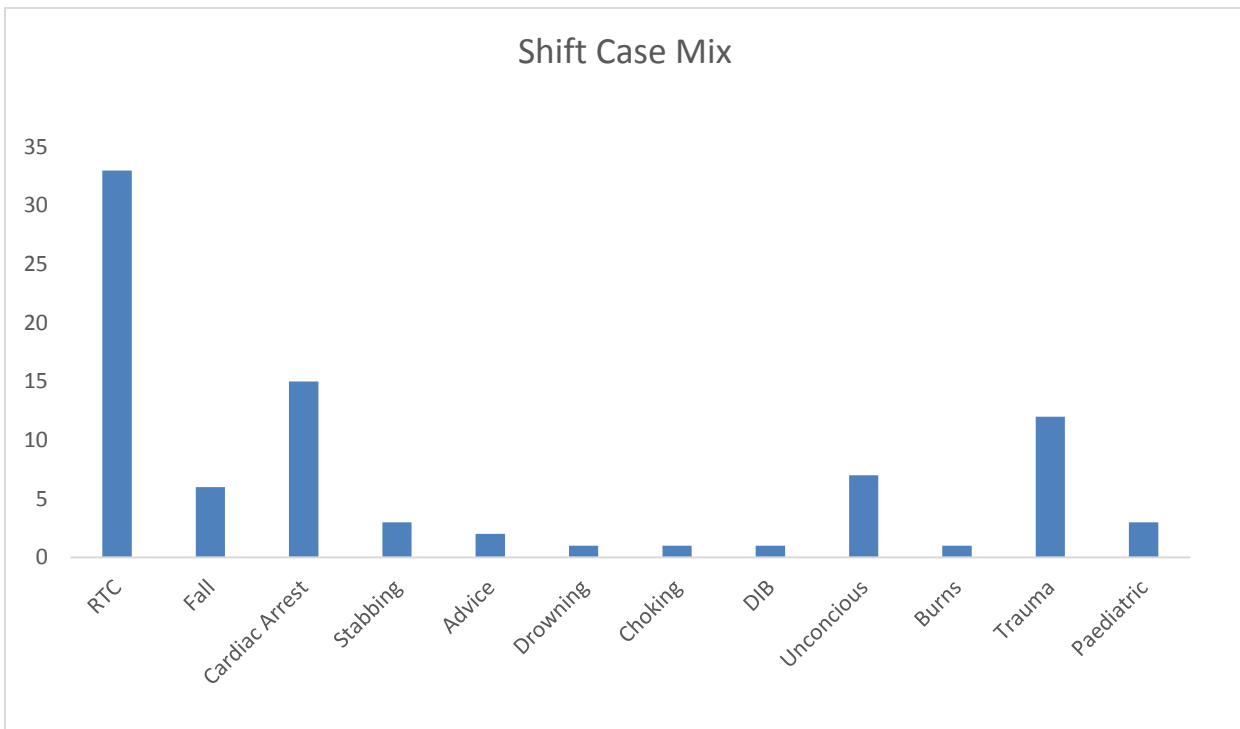
There have been 31 shifts in the 6 month period. The shifts were between 6 and 10 hours long, commonly running from 16:00 to midnight but with some shifts earlier and some later.

The team most commonly comprised one Tier 1 responder (PHEA competent) plus one or two Tier 3 responders (team responder) – this configuration was used in 28 out of 31 shifts. Two shifts included a Tier 2 responder (solo, not PHEA competent), and one shift was manned by Tier 3 responders only.

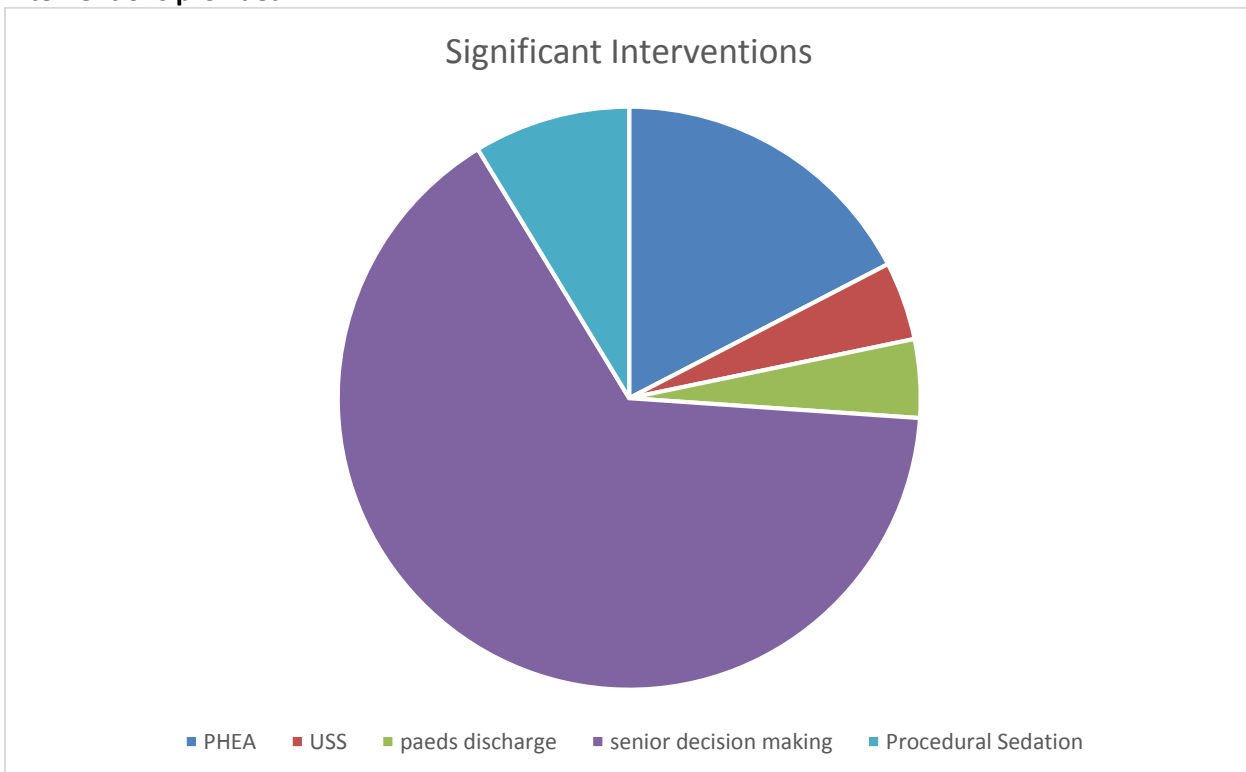
Case numbers

The teams were tasked to 91 incidents over the 31 shifts, average (median) 3 / shift, range 1-5.

Case Mix



Interventions provided



Team teaching / Discussions

During quiet periods on the shift, topics discussed included:

- scene safety
- thoracostomy
- safe discharge
- documentation
- kit
- sedation / analgesia
- blood transfusion
- WAST meal break policy

Summary

The shifts have now become an embedded part of the pre-hospital care provision at the weekend. It is genuinely appreciated by crews and CCC staff. There have been several sentinel interventions but just as importantly, we have provided senior decision making at the scene of incidents, facilitated discharges, saved WAST responses and reduced back ups required, and provided senior support at significant incidents.

The main issues have been problems with staffing the shifts and maintaining the equipment. Of 31 shifts, 11 have been led by the same person. The equipment and electromed maintenance has been an issue in 9 of the 31 shifts, requiring the volunteers to waste clinical time in rectifying these issues. If the project is to continue long term, these two major problems will need to be addressed.

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