

Rebooting The 'Flying Squad' In The PHEM Era A Year's Experience In Cornwall



Royal Cornwall Hospitals
NHS Trust

Dr Millie Wood, Zoe Mitchell, Dr Annika Nordenstam and Dr Matt Beardmore

A collaborative venture between RCHT and local charities, with support and funding from South-Western Ambulance Service, Cornwall Air Ambulance, Royal Cornwall Hospitals Charity and the HELP Appeal.

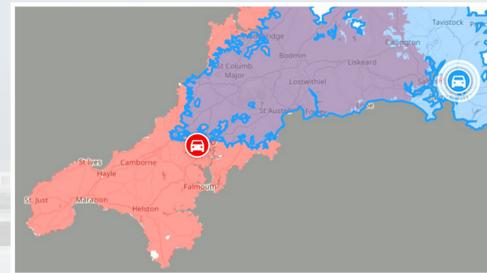
Cornwall's response to geographical isolation

Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust (RCHT) is an isolated Trauma Unit more than 1 hour by land from its Major Trauma Centres, with Plymouth roughly 80 minutes away for adults and Bristol around 150 minutes away for children. Most of Cornwall's population is thus unable to benefit from primary conveyance to MTC by ambulance.

Despite a charitably funded air ambulance (CAAT), physician cover is relatively low with daytime only doctors on board 2-4 days per week. Therefore, in the context of relatively lower demand, Cornwall lags behind much of the UK in access to pre-hospital critical care.

RCHT employs 'Major Trauma and Transfer' consultants 24/7 to attend trauma calls, perform transfers and conduct ward rounds. Those with PHEM training (or equivalent) staff an RRV which is activated by Critical Care Paramedics.

The formation of a 'flash' PHCC team has proven highly effective - vastly expanding the availability of PHEA and advanced surgical procedures.



Areas of Cornwall within 1hour drive of RCHT
Areas of Cornwall within 1hour drive of Derriford (Adult MTC)

How does it work?

999 - Major trauma incident

HEMS Desk

CAAT Activation +
?TTC required?

Major Trauma
Car activation

Ongoing Comms via Airwave/Phone
(possible delayed activation)

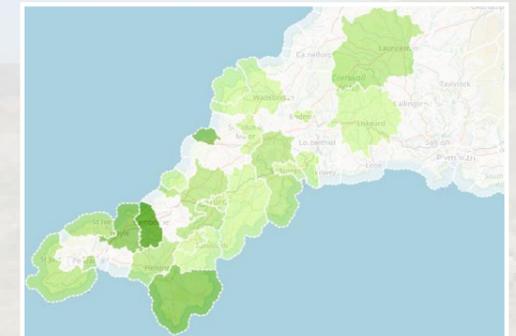


Kit mirrors CAAT:

Hamilton T1	Paeds bag
Zoll X series	Suction device
B-Braun perfuser	Full trauma drugs
1 response bag	

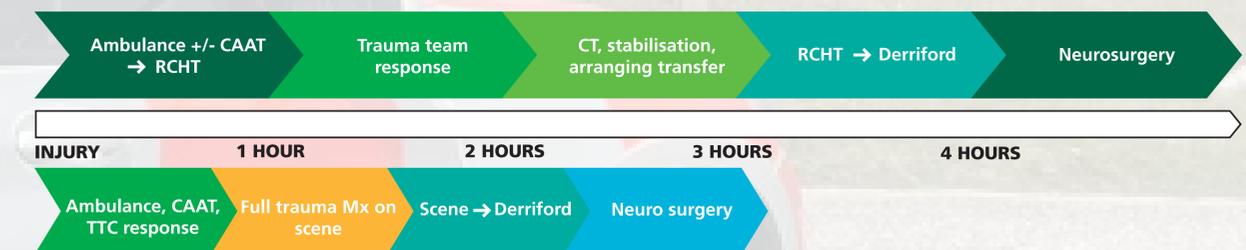
The Major Trauma Car – a year in review

- 2,084 hours of cover provided
- Activated to 49 incidents, of which 80% were trauma
- Delivered five PHEAs
- One procedural sedation
- Escorted 18 patients to hospital, and five direct to MTC
- 42% stand down rate
- All cases reviewed internally via AA governance



The TTC group is currently made up of four anaesthetists, five ED doctors and one GP, with different backgrounds in Cornwall BASICS response, PHEM training and Air Ambulance service.

Theoretical timeline of reduced time to definitive treatment with physician input on scene



Benefits

- This novel model is the first in the UK to re-boot the 'flying squad' concept in the current era of professionalised PHEM
- It provides critical care when needed and shortens time to meaningful interventions for patients in Cornwall
- Improved ability to stabilise patients with physician level care
- Reduces the burden of secondary transfers on the ambulance service by bypassing to MTC and the operational disruption of trauma calls on RCHT
 - ✓ faster time to MTC level care
 - ✓ frees up capacity in RCHT
- More co-ordinated pre-hospital to in-hospital treatment pathways
- It is sustainable and highly governed
- It has a longer-term purpose of attracting PHEM clinicians to Cornwall to augment regional PHCC



Outstanding
Care for One+All