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#### Overview

This standard covers driving an emergency vehicle. This can include non-emergency and emergency situations, both to the scene and returning to the treatment centre conveying individuals with life threatening or non-life threatening conditions. It includes performance of a range of pre-journey checks, including ensuring that the vehicle is in a legal and roadworthy condition, and use of communication equipment.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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## Operate emergency vehicles

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### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 disinfect/decontaminate the vehicle and equipment regularly and whenever contaminated
- P2 use appropriate cleaning agents to provide the level of disinfection/decontamination required and wearing the appropriate protective clothing
- P3 ensure that vehicle surfaces are visibly free from dirt, dust and debris
- P4 dispose of used consumables and equipment in accordance with required procedures
- P5 carry out a vehicle inspection in accordance with required procedures, checking vehicle functions to ensure serviceability and correcting/reporting any identified faults
- P6 carry out 'cockpit' familiarisation checks prior to driving the emergency vehicle and check that communication equipment is functioning correctly
- P7 reporting any problems/defects with the emergency vehicle immediately as they are identified
- P8 stow all equipment securely and take other measures to ensure your safety as appropriate to the situation
- P9 promptly acknowledge all call-outs from the control/operations room and clarify the nature and location of the call-out
- P10 adhere to the Highway Code and road traffic laws
- P11 drive the vehicle in accordance with the approved system of vehicle control and speed, with consideration for passengers/individuals, their number and condition, and other road users
- P12 alter the driving manner/speed to:
  - P12.1 maintain safety in the prevailing driving conditions
  - P12.2 meet the needs of the attendant/individual
- P13 drive the vehicle without undue delay to the required location
- P14 position the vehicle for ease of access/egress, whilst considering the need for protection of crews, individuals and others
- P15 use audible and visual warning devices correctly, when required
- P16 assess and correctly identify situations where exemptions to the traffic laws are required, and give consideration to other road users and their intended/predicted actions
- P17 use the required service procedure to promptly report any involvement of the vehicle in traffic accidents
- P18 ensure your safety as appropriate to the situation

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 the procedure for reporting faults in equipment and vehicles
- K2 the times when vehicle inspections must be performed
- K3 the procedures for reporting faults in vehicles
- K4 the vehicle inspection procedures and checklist
- K5 the Construction and Use Regulations 1978 regulation 97 (1) relating to the condition of vehicles
- K6 the Construction and Use Regulations 1978 regulation 97 (1) and 125 relating to the performance of pre-journey procedures
- K7 journey planning procedures
- K8 the communications methods and procedures used within emergency vehicles, including those relating to call out
- K9 the standard abbreviations for clinics
- K10 the importance of expiry dates and integrity of packaging of sterile items
- K11 decontamination:
  - K11.1 methods
  - K11.2 locations
  - K11.3 indications
- K12 the effect of audible warnings on:
  - K12.1 the driver
  - K12.2 other road users
- K13 the effect of the journey and the use of audible warnings on an individual when conveying them under emergency conditions
- K14 your responsibility for conveyance of individuals
- K15 the driver's responsibilities and how they should be carried out while conveying an individual
- K16 the importance of complete concentration and careful driving
- K17 the personal protective equipment that should be used when disinfecting/decontaminating an emergency vehicle
- K18 the follow up standing orders regarding communication whilst performing urgent/emergency journeys
- K19 the cockpit familiarisation drill/procedure required for pre-journey checks
- K20 the system of vehicle control relating to driving an emergency vehicle
- K21 the procedures for long journeys
- K22 infection control policy and procedures
- K23 the protocol with regard to the checking of emergency equipment
- K24 disposal procedures for:
  - K24.1 contaminated consumables and equipment
  - K24.2 linen/blankets
  - K24.3 clinical waste
  - K24.4 sharps (emergency and paramedic equipment)
  - K24.5 drugs

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- K25 safety procedures, in particular:
  - K25.1 seat belts for passengers
  - K25.2 restraining straps
- K26 vehicle accident and reporting procedures
- K27 the Highway Code relevant to your role
- K28 the road traffic laws relevant to your role
- K29 conditions which justify claiming exemptions from the Highway Code and road traffic law
- K30 aspects of civil law including 'standards of care' and 'negligence' for situations when driving an emergency vehicle
- K31 health and safety regulations including COSHH

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### Additional Information

#### External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: EF3 Transport and logistics

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