Conclusion: A standardized evaluation framework will be beneficial to assess deployments. Further research can be done to identify areas within the evaluation framework that should be prioritized.

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Towards a Systematic Approach for the Assessment of Emergency Medical Teams Performance – Promoting and Developing the Implementation of After-Action Reviews

Nieves Amat Camacho PhD, Hannah Von Reding MSc, Johan Von Schreeb PhD
Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

Background/Introduction: A standardized system for assessing Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) performance is essential for enhancing EMT preparedness, response, and quality assurance. An after-action review (AAR) is a qualitative tool used to evaluate actions taken during emergencies, identifying best practices, gaps, and lessons learned. While AARs have been widely applied to assess national emergency responses, their use for evaluating EMT performance is scarcely documented, and guidance is lacking.
Objectives: This proposal aims to promote and support the development of a systematic approach for the assessment of EMT performance during emergencies, through the implementation of suitable AARs methodologies following deployments.
Method/Description: We propose a collaborative approach encompassing academic institutions, EMTs, WHO Secretariat, and other relevant stakeholders, which can focus on developing, testing, and implementing AARs tailored for EMTs by integrating scientific methods and field experiences.
Results/Outcomes: Proposed strategy includes actions to:

- Revise previously conducted AARs assessing EMT deployments, including methodology, pillars assessed, feasibility, resources, application of results.
- Identify key elements for a systematic AAR approach that best evaluates EMT performance.
- Test the feasibility and appropriateness of different AARs methodologies in different contexts and emergencies.
- Develop guidance for the implementation of ARRs following EMT deployments, both to assess individual EMT performance and overall EMT response.
- Identify/create a system for sharing AARs, enabling a systematic analysis of experiences from which new knowledge and conclusions are generated.

Conclusion: Collaborative efforts to guide AAR use for the assessment of EMT performance will lead to evidence-based recommendations that strengthen EMT response capacities and contribute to the EMT 2030 Strategic Objectives.

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Five Years of PT EMT: A Cycle of Continuous Improvement

Elisabete Reis RN, Filipe Louro Senior Officer, Fernando Ruas Senior Officer, Paula Moreno Senior Officer, Luís Ladeira MSN, Ândrea Figueiredo MSN, Hélder Ribeiro MSN, Ana Correia MD, Ivo Cardoso MSN
INEM - National Institute of Medical Emergency, Lisbon, Portugal

Background/Introduction: The National Institute of Medical Emergency holds the Portuguese Emergency Medical Team - PT EMT, certified by WHO in 2019, and since then its activity has been growing in several areas: assistance, advice, training, and cooperation between partners.

Our aim is to present the lessons learnt over five years of PT EMT's activity in national and international missions and how the cycle of continuous improvement implemented to date has progressed.
Objectives: Analyze the evolution of the PT EMT and incorporate the lessons learnt into the continuous improvement cycle.
Method/Description: Case study, analysis and reflection on lessons learnt from PT EMT deployments.
Results/Outcomes: From 2019 to 2024, PT EMT was involved in 3 standby international deployments and 20 effective deployments: 8 international, 4 national Mass Gathering events, 1 national insular territory, 3 EU MODEX exercises, 2 mainland Portugal, 1 international territory and 1 MEDEVAC.

The planning, preparation and implementation of each deployment was specific and unique, depending on mission profile. This diversity and number of missions has streamlined internal and external processes, making deployment more efficient and faster, particularly the organization and standardization of medical kit loads, their weight and volume, their packaging for air or land transport, which has made it easier to draw up the cargo manifest.
Conclusion: As a result of the activity described above, continuous improvement processes have been implemented in various areas, namely: data records and collection; communication