

# 15. Medical Support



## medical support

At any place where the public gather, there is always a possibility that someone will need medical attention, whether for a simple cut, the worsening of an existing medical problem or something more serious, such as a heart attack.

Those organising events of any type or size have a responsibility to make sure that people are safe and should consider what medical cover they need. This should cover those working on the site during build up and take down as well as the public attending.

There are regulations requiring employers to provide 'adequate and appropriate' equipment and facilities to ensure the safety of employees (including the self-employed) but although this legislation does not apply to non-employees, it is important that organisers take their needs into account when planning their event.

Much will depend on the size and type of event in terms of the level of cover needed but even at small, low risk events, there is the possibility of collapses or other medical emergencies. Organisers need to take account of the profile of those attending, whether the event is indoor or outdoor, as these factors can affect the number of people that may need treatment. There should always be provision of a suitable level of medical provision at every event, regardless of size.

### **Appointing a competent medical provider**

It is important to ensure that the medical services that are appointed assist in planning for a safe event; can supply the personnel, equipment or vehicles that are needed; and have experience of working at events. It is good practice to take up references from other events they have worked at and check that they hold appropriate professional qualification and insurance, including compliance with the requirements of the health care quality regulatory body for the event location.

Suitable arrangements should also be made for the security of medical records generated at the event.

### **Tell the Ambulance Service**

Event organisers should also ensure that the NHS ambulance service is aware of their event, even if they are not involved directly as a service provider (This may happen through the local Safety Advisory Group (SAG) – see separate chapter).

### **Signage**

Make sure that those working and attending an event can find the medical assistance quickly if they need it.

Make sure the facility is clearly marked on the site map and that those working on the event are aware of its location. Those providing medical services must be easily contactable by those working on the site and should be clearly identifiable.