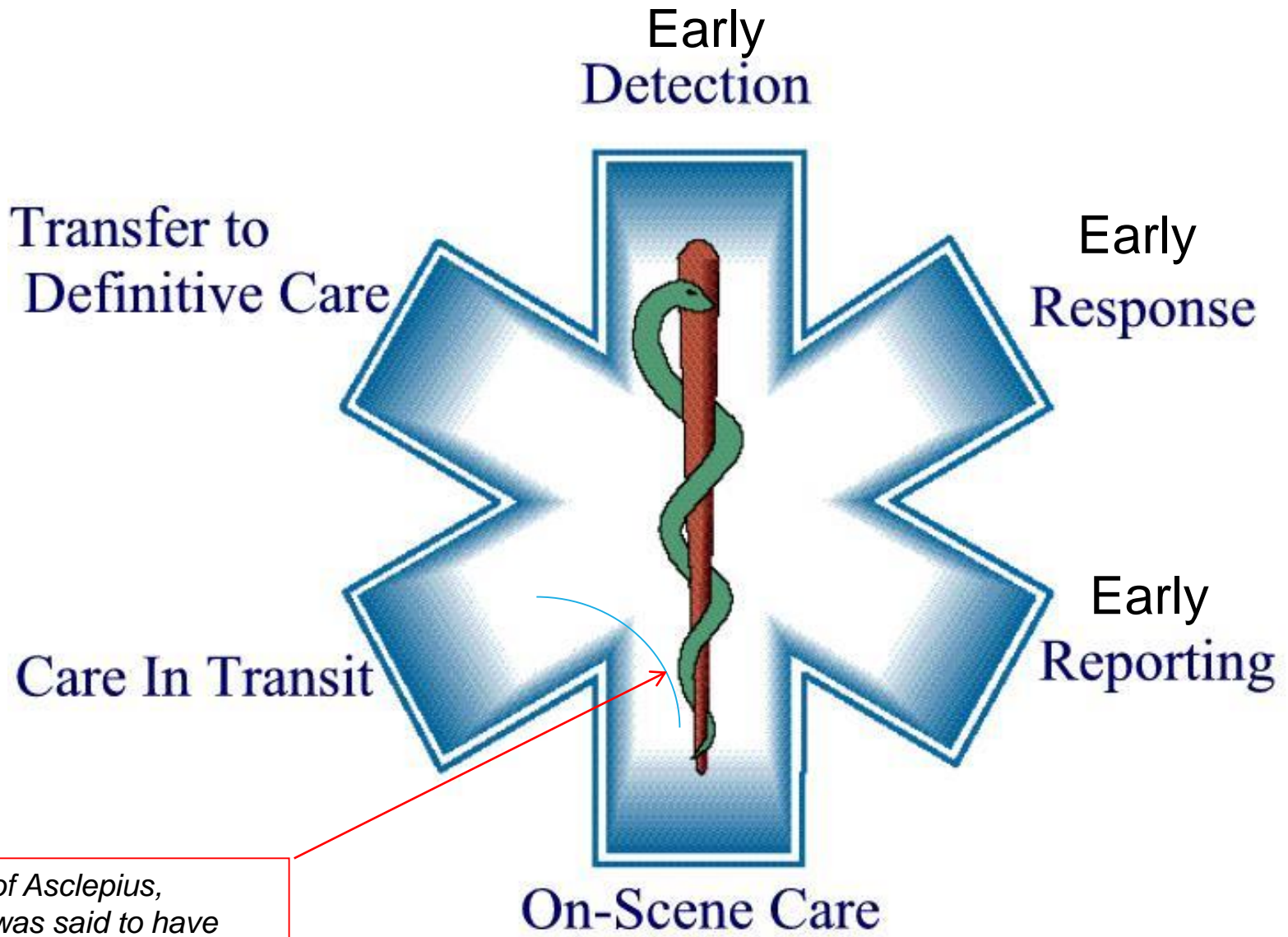


Emergency Medical Service in Poland

Polish: Ratownictwo Medyczne

Krzysztof Jankowski



The Star of Life

The six stages of high quality pre-hospital care, which are:

1. **Early** detection – to find the incident and understand the problem (first responders)
2. **Early** reporting – the first persons on scene make **a call to the emergency medical services** and provide details to enable a response to be mounted
3. **Early** response – **the first professional (EMS) rescuers** arrive on scene as quickly as possible, enabling care to begin

The six stages of high quality pre-hospital care, which are:

4. Good **on-scene** care – **the EMS** provides appropriate and timely interventions **to treat the patient at the scene** of the incident
5. **Care in transit** – **the EMS** load the patient in to suitable transport and continue to provide appropriate medical care throughout the journey
6. **Transfer** to definitive care – the patient is handed over to an appropriate care setting, such as **the emergency department** at a hospital, into the care of physicians

Emergency medical service (EMS)

•a type of emergency service dedicated to:

1. provide out-of-hospital acute medical care
2. transport to definitive care
3. other medical transport to patients with illnesses and injuries which prevent them from transporting themselves

Emergency medical service (EMS)

STAFF:

- **physicians**
- **paramedics/nurses**
- **drivers/pilots**

Emergency Physicians

- **are the leaders of medical teams**
- they may assist with the transport of a critically ill, injured, or special needs patient to a tertiary care hospital, particularly when longer transport times are involved
- supervising the paramedics ALS procedures directly
- have a full range of additional skills such as use of medications that are beyond the paramedic skill set (dopamine, dobutamine, morphine, others).

The most important function of the PARAMEDIC is

- to identify any life-threatening conditions
- to treat them
- to assess the patient carefully for other complaints or findings that may require emergency treatment

Since 2006, the evolving legal standard of training for Polish paramedics is **a three-year Bachelor's degree.**

Paramedics

They have a high level of prehospital medical training

- vein cannulation
- ability to use a drugs to relieve pain, to correct cardiac problems
- to perform endotracheal intubation
- cardiac monitoring
- pericardiocentesis
- cardioversion
- needle decompression
- other skills such as performing a cricothyrotomy.

Ambulance driver

Ambulance drivers have to be trained in:

- emergency medicine (**a three-year Bachelor's degree**)
- radio communications
- ambulance operations
- emergency response driving skills

Emergency medical service (EMS)

Strategy for delivering care

The strategy developed for pre-hospital trauma care is based on the Golden Hour Theory:

- a trauma victim's best chance for survival is in an operating room
- the goal of having the patient in surgery **within an hour of the event**
- this appears to be true in cases of internal bleeding, especially penetrating trauma such as gunshot or stab wounds.

Minimal time is spent providing pre-hospital care:

- spine immobilization
- ensure airway, breathing and circulation („ABC”)
- external bleeding control
- endotracheal intubation
- the victim is transported **as fast as possible** to a trauma centre

The aim in treatment

- to transport the patient within **10 minutes** of arrival
- "**the platinum 10 minutes**" - in addition to the "golden hour"
- "**Scoop and Run**"

"Scoop and Run"

It is a method developed to deal with trauma,
rather than strictly medical situations.

Emergency medical service (EMS)

Ambulances

Ambulances types

- **paramedic-led ambulances** will respond to most emergency calls
- **physicians-led ambulances** being "sent" only to those calls where there is a potential critical threat to life (primarily or they are called by paramedics)
- each ambulance also has a dedicated **ambulance driver**, with the certificate of paramedic

Vehicles in Polish EMS

Three types of vehicle:

1. The patient transport ambulance (**T**)

- is smaller, contains fewer staff (driver+paramedic) and less equipment.

2. The **specialized** ambulance (**S**)

- is a larger van used for serious emergencies. The first choice for response to emergencies that appear to be immediately life-threatening
- staff: **physician and paramedic and driver**

3. The basic ambulance (**P**) (Polish: **podstawowy**)

- a van-type ambulance used for emergencies when a Type S ambulance is unavailable
- staff: **2 paramedics** or nurses + **driver** (3 persons)

Equipment

The basic required equipment of the Type S and Type P ambulances
(this equipment is obligatory)

- ECG monitor



- Portable defibrillator



- Equipment for intravenous therapy

- Mobile medical ventilator



- Spinal immobilization equipment

(such as cervical collars or spine boards)



- Basic diagnostic equipment

(such as blood-pressure cuffs, glucometer)

- Basic First Aid kit

- Dressings and Bandages

- Gurney



- Flexible stretcher

(also called a Reeves stretcher)



- Blankets

- Rigid or collapsible transport chair

(called a stair chair in the United States)

- Rescue equipment

Air ambulances

Polish: Lotnicze Pogotowie Ratunkowe (LPR)

1. helicopter air ambulances strategically located in large cities throughout Poland.
2. nowadays LPR use all 23 new Eurocopter EC-135
3. these replaced all of the old Soviet-era aircraft
4. nowadays - full compliance with the existing European Standard JAR OPS-3 for air ambulances

Emergency medical service (EMS)

System configuration

***Ratownictwo Medyczne* service delivery units:**

1. Pogotowie Ratunkowe (EMS stations)

2. Lotnicze Pogotowie Ratunkowe (LPR) (Air ambulance stations)

1. Fire Brigade

- in the Polish system firefighters assist Polish EMS in exceptional circumstances, including fires and motor vehicle accidents.
- the training provided to Polish firefighters **is limited to first aid.**
- as a result, their participation in emergency medical responses is less common than those in another countries.

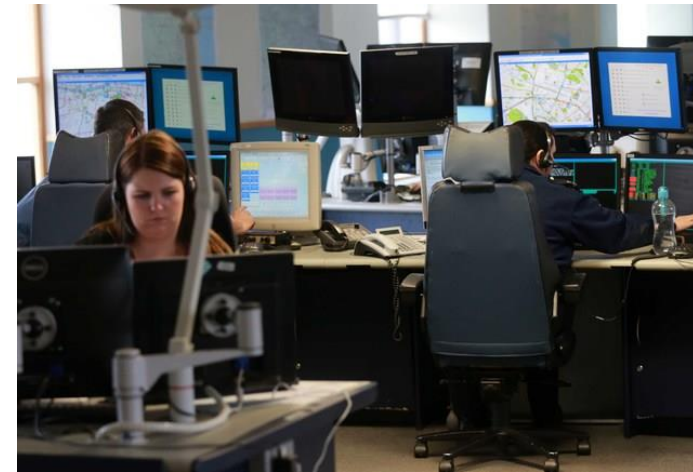
1. All ambulances in Poland are dispatched from centralized regional dispatch centers (Polish: **Centrum Powiadamiania Ratunkowego**).

2. The traditional standardized emergency telephone number for ambulances in Poland is **999**. The standard European Emergency Number, **112** also works in Poland, including mobile systems



3. Calls are triaged by interview process

4. The closest and most correct type of ambulance resource is sent to the call.



5. The telecom operator transmits the location information to the emergency centre