



18<sup>th</sup> June 2012

## **IAEM eagerly anticipates this week's launch of the national Emergency Medicine Programme document**

The Irish Association for Emergency Medicine eagerly awaits this week's publication of the national Emergency Medicine Programme (EMP) report. This will be launched by the Minister for Health, Dr. James Reilly TD on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

This is a very auspicious event for Emergency Medicine in Ireland and for IAEM, its representative organisation. The EMP document provides considerable background detail on the current state of Emergency Medicine in Ireland but, more importantly, provides an innovative blueprint to allow the development of a National Emergency Care System (NECS). It describes the key role of Emergency Medicine and defines its various relationships with pre-hospital care, primary care and the necessary supporting hospital specialties. It provides a model of Emergency Department (ED) categorisation that will allow individual hospitals to configure their services in a way that is consistent with international best practice.

The report is dedicated to improving both the quality and patient experience of care in our EDs. In addition to a very comprehensive blueprint, the report sets out a series of interventions that will take place countrywide to improve access, quality and value in Emergency Medicine in Ireland. While other countries have espoused some of the individual strategic elements, Ireland has produced a comprehensive national roadmap for the future development of Emergency Medicine. The Association has been deeply involved in this project from its outset having intensively lobbied the HSE Directorate of Clinical Strategy and Programmes to develop the programme.

The Association commends our colleague, Dr. Una Geary, National Clinical Lead EMP, her multidisciplinary working group and the national advisory group for their enormous efforts in bringing such a comprehensive report to the public and to those charged with oversight and delivery of healthcare in Ireland. It calls on all of those in positions of authority to ensure that the EMP's crucial strategic aims are fully supported and the Programme is rapidly and comprehensively implemented.

Despite the economic situation, a degree of continuing investment in health services is necessary. The EMP will provide assurance, especially at a time when the State's finances are under such pressure, that investment is targeted to ensure the maximum health benefit for the country's population.

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