



Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

123 St. Stephen's Green
Dublin 2
Ireland

1st October 2007

IAEM publishes *Standards for Emergency Department Design and Specification for Ireland.*

The Irish Association for Emergency Medicine has today published a comprehensive document to ensure that any Irish Emergency Department that is redeveloped or replaced is designed and specified to a standard appropriate for 2007.

The *Emergency Department Task Force Report* published in June 2007 acknowledges what the IAEM has been saying for many years, namely that many Irish Emergency Departments (EDs) are "unfit for purpose". Many other departments are barely fit for purpose and have significant infrastructural deficits which limit their ability to function effectively. Historically, ED development in Ireland has been under-resourced and poorly planned. It is no longer acceptable for the standard of new developments to be based upon what was previously approved by the Department of Health and Children and the HSE and its predecessors the Health Boards. Instead, contemporary best international standards, as outlined in this document, should be used to provide new EDs and remodel existing units. Furthermore the delay between the acceptance of the need to replace an ED and its final opening has been so long, that departments are not fit to meet their current demands by the time of their commissioning. Moreover, in spite of some previous guidance from the IAEM in 1999 and 2001 there has not been a definitive document which can be used as a resource for either the development or redevelopment of EDs. This latter deficiency has been addressed by today's publication.

The IAEM looks forward to all new build or redevelopment projects applying these standards. This will result in EDs which are of adequate size and contain all the necessary elements for the modern practice of Emergency Medicine. At last, our stock of EDs should be a source of pride and satisfaction to patients, staff and management alike rather than the current very unsatisfactory situation where patients are treated in substandard conditions.

President:

Mr. Fergal Hickey FRCS, FRCSEd. (A&E), DA(UK), FCEM
Consultant in Emergency Medicine

Sligo General Hospital
The Mall
Sligo
Ireland

Tel No: +353 71 9174505
Fax No: +353 71 9174646

Secretary:

Mr. James Binchy FRCSEd. (A&E), Dip.Med.Tox., FCEM.
Consultant in Emergency Medicine,

University College Hospital
Newcastle Road,
Galway,
Ireland

Tel No: +353 91 542 766
Fax No: +353 91 520 154

Treasurer:

Dr. Una Geary FRCSEd. (A&E), FRCPI, FCEM
Consultant in Emergency Medicine

St. James' Hospital
James' Street
Dublin 8
Ireland

Tel No: +353 1 4103581 / 4162777
Fax No: +353 1 4103451