



National Emergency Medicine Programme  
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland,  
123 St Stephen's Green,  
Dublin 2.

Telephone: (01) 4022296  
Email: emp@rcsi.ie

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Dear Colleague,

We are currently preparing for the implementation of the Emergency Medicine Programme (EMP) and need Emergency Department teams to identify the key people to lead and drive the implementation in their units. Although we are still finalising feedback from consultation on the EMP Report 2011, we are confident that the elements outlined in the First Steps document are unlikely to change and we are therefore asking ED teams to start to plan how they will begin to implement the First Steps recommendations.

The attached slide-pack outlines initial implementation actions and timelines, with the aim of all EDs having implementation plans ready for submission within the next 6 weeks. Further materials are being developed to support implementation planning and these will be circulated shortly. The slide-pack is being sent to all Consultants in EM, to members of the Emergency Nursing Interest Group (which has a representative from every ED) and to the regional Clinical Programme Implementation Leads in the regional HSE offices.

We appreciate that each ED has a different starting point for implementation. The programme will take a flexible and supportive approach to enable all units to maximise the improvements in quality, access and value they can achieve for patients through the programme. Each unit will be expected to improve on its own performance through EMP implementation – there will be no negative competition or league tables associated with the Programme.

Implementation is the most critical phase of the EMP. We don't underestimate the challenge inherent in trying to improve the quality of patient care in the face of current economic constraints. However we, the ED teams, are the people best placed to identify where and how the services we provide can be improved. Now is the time to start.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Una Geary,  
National Clinical Lead for Emergency Medicine on behalf of the EMP Working Group,  
Consultant in Emergency Medicine, St James's Hospital, Dublin.  
MCRN 12515