

EDITORIAL

Emergency Department: Basic Prerequisites for the Upgrade of the NHS

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Abstract

The Emergency Department is an autonomous hospital unit comprised of doctors, nurses and paramedics, who deliver emergency care on a 24-hour basis. It provides an interface between patients and their specialized treatment, as well as a point of contact between primary and tertiary care.

The need for medical services has increased disproportionately to the available resources for medical care; a fact that has given rise to difficulties in maintaining the effective function of the Emergency Department. As a result, the provision of high standard services is not ensured.

In order to help establish and maintain the effective operation of the Emergency Department, new methods should be established which efficiently utilize existing and up-and-coming information and communication technologies. This will allow for the acceleration of the Department's operational procedures, more effective treatment of emergency cases, and ultimately assists in maintaining a high level of patient satisfaction. The expansion and development of specific services offered by the ED will also assist in the Department becoming a system of qualitative assessment for primary care. This would lead to a better outcome for emergency cases as a result of fast, spherical and effective treatment.

Key words: emergency departments, emergency medicine