

Consensus on Research Priorities for Essex & Herts Air Ambulance: A Delphi Study

McLachlan & Bungay (2021)

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13049-021-00835-z>

For which topic were research priorities identified?

air ambulance & emergency medical service

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Europe - United Kingdom

Why was it conducted at all?

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) is a Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) charity that provides enhanced pre-hospital critical care to critically ill and injured patients in Essex, Hertfordshire and surrounding areas 24 hours a day, seven days a week. EHAAT is a research active organisation, striving to continually improve patient care and outcomes through evidence-based practice. EHAAT sought to develop a five-year research strategy that aligns with their clinical work streams and organisational priorities, using a bottom up approach to survey all staff members in the organisation.

What was the objective?

to develop a five-year research strategy for Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) that aligns with their clinical work streams and organizational priorities

What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 5 research questions

How long did the research prioritization take?

No information provided.

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

Delphi

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: Delphi round 1: participants asked to submit up to five research questions that they felt were of greatest importance to EHAAT to advance the care provided to patients, 86 research questions submitted. Step 2: data processing: duplicates removed, resulting in 69 questions. Step 3: Delphi round 2: participants were asked to rate the importance of each question, questions with mean rating of 4 or higher were taken forward. Step 4: Delphi round 3: list of 14 questions, participants asked to rank questions

Which stakeholders took part?

Staff at EHAAT. Delphi round 1: 22 participants: 3 charity staff, 7 pre-hospital care doctors, 5 critical care paramedics, 1 member of the executive team, 2 trustees, 4 staff with roles spanning two areas of the organization. Delphi round 2: 11 participants: 4 pre-hospital care doctors, 1 critical care paramedic, 1 trustee, 2 staff with roles spanning two areas of the organization). Delphi round 3: 12 participants: 3 pre-hospital care doctors, 3 critical care paramedics, 4 staff members with roles spanning two areas of the organization.

How were stakeholders recruited?

All staff at EHAAT were invited to participate. This included the Executive Team (N=6), Clinical Team (N=53) and Charity staff (Fundraising and Events, Communications, Finance and Lottery, Support and Retail, N=58). The Charity's Trustees (N=9) were also invited to take part. A total of 126 people were therefore contacted about the study.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.