



Newsletter: 343/2018
Date: 22 June 2018
Distribution: All ambulance members
Contact: Your HSU Organiser



Pre-Hospital Phlebotomy and growing the profession

ADHSU has only recently become aware of a [trial](#) being run where paramedics take [blood samples](#) from appropriate patients in the pre-hospital setting. One of the chief objectives of the trial is to ascertain whether it would create an efficiency in the hospital (freeing up a Dr or RN to move patients through ED rather than taking blood samples) – it will also lead to faster test results and definitive care.

ADHSU Council is of the view that paramedics, as professionals, should be willing to accept any new skill or procedure that is safe to perform, and benefits patients (including during their time in hospital). So, on the face of it, we believe paramedics should accept the notion of a trial of Pre-Hospital Phlebotomy. And the profession shouldn't wait until the boffins come up with new ways to benefit patients. Why shouldn't paramedics get together and start arguing for new skills themselves? For example, why aren't we on the front foot telling government that paramedics are willing and capable of being trained in femoral blocks?

Again, as we head into the registered era, paramedics, as professionals, are in a strong position to be the among the most important patient advocates in Health.

The benefits don't just flow to patients and the health system either. The higher the skills paramedics can perform the higher the job satisfaction – and higher professional pay.

On that basis we believe our members should positively contribute to the pre-hospital phlebotomy trial and any others that are likely to benefit patients. We will use any new skills or productivity improvements while making the public case to get rid of the wages regulation and finally professionalise paramedic wages.

Link to the trial documentation [here](#) and [here](#).

In unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerard Hayes', written in a cursive style.

Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD