INTEGRATION OF PREHOSPITAL EMERGENCY TEAMS IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT:
A WIN-WIN SOLUTION

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In the actual context of financial crisis, the efficiency, besides efficacy, of prehospital services and emergency department is of paramount importance.

We discuss the mains achievements with the integration of prehospital health professionals (nurses and medical doctors) in the emergency departments.

Methods

• Integration of prehospital emergency teams started during last trimester of 2011
• Make a prospective analysis to evaluate the main impact of this project, comparing integrated units with to non-integrated units, in parameters such as:
  • Labor costs
  • Availability of ambulances and medical doctors
  • Number of trained personnel
  • Participation on transport of critically ill patients.

Results

• Improved population access to ALS units in 29%
• Decrease the inoperability rate in 25%.
• Improved the participation of qualified teams in the transport of critically ill patients.
• Integrated teams participated in more than 1800 inter-hospital transports of critically patients.
• More than 700 emergency department’s professionals were trained in ALS and in intensive care medicine.
• Overtime pay decreased over 66%.

Conclusions

Integration of prehospital professionals in the emergency department teams is perfectly reachable and reduces human resource’s global costs.

This organizational change improved the availability of highly qualified professionals to both systems (prehospital and emergency departments) and, consequently, improved efficacy of them.

Medical doctor’s availability was also improved and a system of inter-hospital transport of critically ill patients was implemented, based on these integrated teams.