



Paramedic Workshop for Ghana by Motec – A Popular Opportunity.

23rd October 2008. Koforidua Ghana.

By Dr. Bhakti Hansoti & Mr. P. Ofori-Atta October 2008.

About a year ago (October 2007) Motec Life UK organised an inaugural lecture at the British Council Auditorium in Accra to commemorate the first anniversary of the Charity's working visits to target Hospitals in Ghana. The theme for the occasion was 'Moving Ghana's Health Forward. Among the observations made by the Motec Presidency was the concern for the safety of accident victims on the roads and farms in Ghana. Motec promised to highlight the need for education and transfer of skills to the paramedic staff and institutions in Ghana through collaboration with relevant authorities.

Since then, a lot has been learnt about the efforts of the Ghanaian Ministry of Health to improve mobile emergency services. In line with the objectives of Motec, a paramedic workshop was organised by Motec and the Ministry of Health represented by the Ghana National Ambulance Service, Directorate of Occupational Health and the Eastern Regional Directorate with the co-operation of the Ghana National Fire Service (ER) and the Professional Drivers Union of Ghana. The event was chaired by Dr Wilfred Addo Larbi, Clinical Care Director, Ministry of Health Koforidua and attended by 120 participants including Dr Erasmus Agongo, the Eastern Regional Director of Health, Dr Ahmed Zakaria the Director of the Ghana National Ambulance Service, Dr Edith Clarke, Director of Occupational Health (MOH), representatives of three regional paramedic and fire service teams, delegation from the Professional Drivers Union, doctors and nurses from Motec's target hospitals and other interested parties.

The programme kicked off with a welcome message by Dr Agongo, the Regional Director of Health which was followed by academic session in the morning and practical stations in the afternoon.



Capital View Hotel, Koforidua - Venue



Participants Sign in for workshop

PROGRAMME for PARAMEDIC WORKSHOP KOFORIDUA

Chairman:

Dr Wilfred Addo Larbi Clinical Care Director, Ministry of Health (MOH)

Supported by

Dr. Ahmed Zakariah Director.National Ambulance Services. MOH. Accra. Ghana

Dr Edith Clarke. Director, Occupational Health, Min of Health.(MOH). ACCRA

Sponsors: MIDA Ghana, Gokals Pharmaceuticals, Mrs E. Appiah, Motec Life - UK
Johnson & Johnson, Ghana.

Morning Session. 0930 – 1230PM

- 1) Welcome Dr Erasmus Agongo, Regional Director of Health
- 2) Introduction Mr Chris Hurt Albania Ambulance Service, London
- 3) Basic DR ABC Dr Bhakti Hansoti, Emergency Medicine UK /USA
- 4) DVD Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation. Chris



Paramedic Chris Hurt.



Mr Ofori-Atta (right) meets Dr Erasmus Agongo during tea break at the workshop

5) Observations; Why and how? Chris Hurt

- a) BREATHING
- b) EYES
- c) PULSE
- d) BLOOD PRESSURE
- e) SKIN
- f) Glasgow Coma Scale

- 6) Ambulance Aid Skills Dr Mike Brunner Consultant ITU Care, London.
 - a) AIRWAY MANAGEMENT
 - b) BREATHING MANAGEMENT
 - c) CIRCULATION MANAGEMENT
- 7) Paramedic Skills Mr. Chris Hurt
 - a) C-SPINE PROTECTION
 - b) IMMOBILISATION (SPINAL BOARD & ORTHO STRETCHER)
 - c) SPLINTING
- 8) Trauma Series Patti Edwards/Dr Bhakti Hansoti



Some participants of the workshop listening attentively to a lecture.



The back benchers also attentive.

LUNCH 1230 – 1330

Afternoon 1330 – 1700

Split practical skills sessions – 4 stations: Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation, Immobilisation of Spine, Emergency Intubation and Handling of Victims of Accident.



Skills Training by Dr Mike Brunner
Interaction between participants and instructors and vice versa was key.



Emergency Intubation needs concentration, says Motec's Dr Tosh

Practical Paramedic Skills



CPR Hands on for participants



Immobilisation of the Spine

Supporting group (Practicals) –Various stations:

Mr Paul Ofori-Atta	Gladys Ofori-Atta	Catherine Dimmer	Isaac Dadzie
Simon Derby	Mercy Acheampong	Edith Clarke	Dr Ajit Walunj
Raymond Ofori	Claire FitzPatrick	Dr Kofi Amu-Darko	Rosie Doogan

“Q&A” then a short video on paramedics in the UK

Vote of Thanks: Dr Wilfred Addo Larbi, Clinical Care Director, Ministry of Health.



Mr Lal Gokals of Gokals pharmaceuticals left of picture, supporter of the workshop.

Conclusion

Those who attended enjoyed the event. Participants and instructors were given certificates. Most completed audit forms. Visual aides were commended. Requests were made to include topics such as triage, maternity, burns and patient transfer to our lecture series in future. The most beneficial section was reinforcement of Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation, practical teaching on chest compressions and airway management, and updating the resuscitation algorithm. The lecture series were well thought out and flowed quiet naturally. The afternoon practical session helped successfully reinforce the lectures and allowed the local teams to ask questions. Handouts were greatly appreciated and at times did not meet the growing demand but a lot of participants downloaded the lecture series. Motec hopes to improve its faculty and programme through a thorough study of the audit and membership devotion to the noble course. Motec appreciates the key role played by the local collaborators. A million thanks to all including Motec volunteers especially Dr Bhakti Hansoti and the faculty.

It is hoped that the trainers that got trained in the process may pass on their experiences to their students and team mates out at their various institutions, stations and that the victims of accident would be the overall winner of the exercise.