Air Ambulance Operations Notice 1/08

Dated: 2nd January, 2008.

Subject: **Emergency Air Ambulance Missions from the
                Off-Shore Islands**

There is an agreement with the Coast Guard that they will provide a helicopter for all emergency air ambulance transfers from any off-shore Island to the nearest appropriate acute hospital/Airport.

The ambulance service is introducing a standard procedure for dealing with emergency air ambulance requests and missions from the off-shore islands. This procedure will apply to all requests for off-shore island based emergency air ambulance missions throughout Ireland.

Procedure:

1.   The GP, Nurse or any member of the public on the Islands will make their request through the 999 system and ask for ambulance control.

2.   The person making the call for an emergency air ambulance should have the following information available in order to expedite the activation of the service.
     i.   Location
     ii. Directions to site
     iii. Numbers of patients
     iv. Types of injury
     v.   General weather conditions.

3. The Emergency Medical Controller (EMC) will contact the appropriate Coast Guard Control Centre @

    - **Islands between Kerry and Galway**
      Ring Valentia MRCC 066 9476109
    - **Islands from Mayo to Donegal**
      Ring Valentia MRCC 074 9370103
    - **Islands from Louth to Cork**
      Ring Dublin MRCC 01 6620922

4. The EMC will make every effort to ensure that the call is authentic and fits into the emergency category.

5. The EMC will liaise with the Coast Guard Control Centre and make the necessary arrangements to ensure that the receiving hospital is notified and that an ambulance is made available to transfer the patient into the medical facility.

6. For recording purposes, each air ambulance mission will be treated as a normal emergency ambulance mission with an air transport flag.

7. This policy will be implemented from the 1st February, 2008.

Signed:

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