

Review of: "Emergence of Dive Paramedics: Advancing Prehospital Care Beyond DMTs"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Title: Emergence of Dive Paramedics : Advancing Pre-hospital care beyond DMTs.

Proposal to have a Dive paramedic is laudable. Sports diving, as compared to Commercial Oilfield Diving, is more hazardous because it is not regulated. Often the diver is not well qualified and not 100 % medically fit. Safety norms are flouted and equipment not up to the mark. Accident rate is therefore high. Requirement of a DMT is justified.

In Commercial diving, DMT is essentially a member of the dive team. He has an additional qualification of a DMT. In the proposed training scheme, he would be a dedicated individual and unless he/she loves swimming and diving he would be "out of place" in the community. I would propose that the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) from the A&E could be further trained as DMT. Training to include, care of drowning, airway management, endotracheal intubation, intravenous fluids management, intercostal drain etc. Regional hospital providing emergency medical services should have a formal arrangements with Dive resorts. DMTs be deployed on a rota basis to provide 24X7 service. Short duty would take care of boredom. Costs involved in keeping a DMT and a large number of medical equipment would be taken care of. Financial burden is shared by all users.

Hopefully the services of a DMT would not be used daily !