

# Role and Responsibility of a First Aid Responder

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A First Aid Responder may be a healthcare practitioner, or a member of the public who has undertaken a First Aid Response course incorporating the Cardiac First Response (CFR) standard. In addition to CFR skills, the First Aid Responder possesses defined skills in the further management of a patient who has become suddenly ill or injured in the pre-hospital environment until the arrival of emergency medical services (EMS). The First Aid Responder is able to assess and manage these patients in accordance with PHECC Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs). The First Aid Response Standard adopts a uniform approach to interacting with patients and other emergency medical services in the pre-hospital setting. Finally, First Aid Responders must be able to demonstrate a commitment to the process of continuous responder competence and will be required to maintain their skill levels in First Aid Response including CFR at defined intervals.

## First Aid Response Standard Rationale

The First Aid Responder will possess the following general skills. The ability to:

- Deal with life threatening or potentially life-threatening conditions in the pre-hospital environment until arrival of emergency medical services;
- Provide first aid response for conditions not thought to be life-threatening but are necessary to prevent further harm before the emergency medical services arrive;
- Provide pre-hospital first aid response in a wide range of environments including home, recreational and workplace settings;
- Display the requisite personal skills including composure, competence and self-confidence while understanding their limitations.

## Learning Outcomes

There are competencies that students who achieve the First Aid Response Standard are required to demonstrate. Upon completion of a recognised First Aid Response course the student will be able to:

1. **Recognise and Assess** the causes and effects of sudden illness and/or injury in a prehospital environment and call for emergency medical services.
2. **React** to such pre-hospital emergencies utilising PHECC CPGs.
3. **Respond** in a safe, effective, and appropriate manner to such emergencies utilising the First Aid Response skill set and in accordance with PHECC CPGs as part of the pre-hospital continuum of care.
4. **Record and Report** actions and interventions taken while responding to and managing such incidents and during handover to emergency medical services.
5. **Retain** a caring attitude in their role as First Aid Responders. The learning objectives in the Standard refer to the management of adults and children unless stated otherwise. Consideration should be given when delivering the course to using 'Plain English' to explain medical or clinical terms for responders who do not regularly interact with the pre-hospital Emergency environment.