

Emergency medical System in Italy



Emergency medical services in Italy consist of a combination of volunteer organizations providing ambulance service, supplemented by physicians and nurses who perform all advanced life support (ALS) procedures. The emergency telephone number for emergency medical service in Italy is 118.



Emergency medical services are under Public Health Authorities control in every Italian Region; the ambulance subsystem is provided by a variety of different sources.

The basic staffing model consists of Basic Life Support ambulances, Modified Advanced Life Support ambulances, Advanced life support emergency vehicles with medical equipment, Intermediate life support emergency vehicles with nurses.

The top end of the spectrum are the Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS), staffed by an emergency physician, a critical care nurse and a mountain rescue specialist.



The operation centre chooses each time the most appropriate vehicle to send on the spot of the event.

The entire system is coordinated and regulated by the 118 operations and dispatch centers.