



English Ambulance Service:

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23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017

Dear Colleagues

**RE: CR1 CAPABILITY IN ENGLISH AMBULANCE TRUSTS**

You will be aware that the Civil Responder 1 (CR1) protective equipment is no longer being produced by the manufacturer. Ambulance CR1 stocks expire between 2015 and 2018.

Trusts are contractually required to maintain HART capabilities in line with the national specification defined by NHS England and NARU (EPRR HART Core Standard 1). This includes procuring and maintaining nationally specified equipment (EPRR HART Core Standards 7, 8, 10 and 11).

From today, NARU is providing a derogation for English Ambulance Trusts under these contractual obligations specifically in relation to the maintenance of the CR1.

Where appropriately maintained CR1 protective equipment is available in a HART unit and where corresponding safe undressing procedures are available during active deployments, Trusts are still required to maintain the funded capability.

Where CR1 stocks can no longer be safely maintained due to limited supply or where safe undressing procedures are not operationally available, it is acceptable for the Trust to suspend CR1 as a tactical option. Where this happens, PRPS or Gas Tight PPE should be considered as alternative tactical options.

The NARU capabilities team is taking urgent steps to secure police supplies of QDPP (Quick Don) as an interim alternative to CR1. Updates on this replacement, including plans for re-training and stock management implications, have been provided to Trust representatives via the National Operations Group and National Equipment Group.

The National CBRN Centre has an active programme to replace CR1, QDPP and potentially other forms of PPE with a new alternative. This will be a tri-service replacement, scheduled for roll out in 2019. In the meantime, The National CBRN Centre has agreed to support the disposal of CR1 suits, free of charge. To access this service, please contact a member of the NARU Capabilities Team. Note however, the FM12 respirators and hydration vests must be retained by Trusts until further notice.

Yours faithfully,

**Christian Cooper**  
Head of Compliance