

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Health Sciences

MMed Emergency Medicine
Final examination

MPhil Emergency Medicine
Written examination

20 March 2008

Management long answer paper

1300 - 1600

**NO CALCULATORS AND/OR
ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT/AID WILL BE ALLOWED**

This paper consists of **FOUR** long answer questions. All questions are to be answered. Each question is worth 100 marks.

Answer each question in a separate answer book.

1.

You have recently been appointed as the Head of the emergency centre of a busy Regional Hospital.

Bed occupancy in the hospital is consistently over 95%. Admission for patients presenting to the emergency centre is thus being compromised as no beds are available in the wards. The knock-on effect of this is that assessment facilities in the Beds in the centre are being used for those patients awaiting admission.

Outline strategies you will put in place to address the problem.

(100)

2.

Your emergency centre sees a small number of regular attendees – patients who present repeatedly with either the same problem or numerous varied problems. Your staff are wary of them and they are always pushed to the back of the queue.

Discuss the potential problems associated with regular attendees, and how you will go about addressing their presence in your unit.

(100)

3.

You are the head of an urban Regional emergency centre. You have about 40,000 visits per annum, including the full range of emergency cases.

Your longest serving PMO has handed in his resignation with one month's notice; an SMO has fallen pregnant – she will not work overtime for next 3 months and will then go on maternity leave; in 3 month's time the three rotating Community Service MOs allocated to your unit will be leave and will not be replaced.

How would you approach solving your medical staffing problems?

Include in your answer:

- Ideal medical staffing for a unit of that size
- General roster structure
- The appointment process
- Other solutions if there are no applicants for posts

(100)

4.

Discuss a strategy and operational plan to reduce morbidity and mortality from traffic accidents in South Africa, providing evidence to motivate your plan.

(100)