

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Emergency is crisis health situation that demands urgent intervention. Accidents and emergencies come in various forms such as Road Traffic Accidents (RTA), domestic accidents, natural disasters, medical, non-trauma surgical emergencies and obstetric emergencies. About 65% OPD cases seen came in the form of emergencies. These trends are expected to increase as Ghana is changing rapidly and has entered the demographic transition, where the burden of non-communicable diseases is rising rapidly while the incidence of communicable diseases is yet to be brought under control. It is estimated that Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs) account for 1.7% of both DALYs and mortality in adults. This trend is expected to increase due to the increase in vehicular traffic and improvement in our road networks. This requires that the health sector prepares to respond to accidents and emergencies. The National Ambulance Service (NAS) introduced in 2004 handles pre-hospital care. Currently there are 19 locations in five (5) Regions. The objective of the health sector is to improve the outcomes of medical, surgical and obstetrics emergencies by deploying a combination of community based first responders, ambulance services and facility based emergency preparedness.