Unit 5
Delivering post-crash care
Objectives

By the end of this unit, the trainee should be able to:

• describe the main actions that need to be taken soon after a road traffic collision has occurred;
• discuss the key resources and organization needed for hospital care;
• discuss ways of providing rehabilitation services to injured persons;
• examine the quality of post-crash care in the trainee's own setting.
What should bystanders and first responders do soon after a road traffic collision?

- Secure the scene
- Call for help
- Contact the emergency services
- Organize people and resources
- Help to put out any fire
- Administer first aid
- Transport the injured person to a hospital, especially if emergency medical service is not available.
Ensure pre-hospital care system is working

- Prompt communication and activation
- Prompt response
- Assess and treat on transport to formal health-care facilities
- Strengthen first responders and pre-hospital trauma care providers
- Coordinate and use existing clinics, hospitals and health services
- Establish and follow appropriate ethical and legal principles
The hospital setting

Human resources

- Primary care providers and police officers should know location and levels of expertise of different hospitals in their regions
- Triage patients: most seriously injured, less injured, other
- Continuous developing of human resources in trauma care

Physical resources

- Ensure availability of trauma-related equipment

Organization

- Proper planning for use of resources is necessary
Ensure availability of personnel and equipment for trauma treatment
Rehabilitation

- Starts during hospitalization.
- Strengthen collaboration among different persons and institutions involved in medical care and rehabilitation.
- Focus on recovery of patient's physical and mental health as well as patient's ability to become independent and reintegrated into society.
- Provide needed aids.
- Community-based rehabilitation is a realistic means of reintegrating the individual into society.
Key points (1)

• Society has to be prepared not only to prevent road traffic injuries but also to mitigate their consequences and enhance the quality of life of people who are injured.

• Essential elements in pre-hospital care include prompt communication, treatment and transport of injured people to formal health-care facilities.

• Existing clinics, hospitals and health services should be used to ensure efficient mobilization of health-care resources.
Key points (2)

• Human resources, physical resources and organization are essential aspects in hospital settings.

• Rehabilitation services are an essential component of the comprehensive package of initial and post-hospital care of the injured.

• The three components of care – pre-hospital, hospital and rehabilitation – are interrelated and form a continuum of care.
Activity

Task

Based on the information provided in this unit, prepare a brief summary on the status of the post-crash care system in your setting.

Expected results

This exercise is meant to help trainees conduct a rapid assessment of the post-crash care system in their settings. They can do this for the entire system or selected components.
Questions to think about

a) How adequately is your country or city prepared to respond to post-crash needs of persons injured in road traffic collisions?

b) How can you improve post-crash care in your country?