

St Rita's hospital- background

This description is given to help you understand the hospital in which you are working when you are in the SOE and SCE stations in part B Exam.

St Rita's is a large teaching hospital with 500 beds on site. The Emergency Department sees around 45,000 patients a year including children.

Specialties on site include:

Acute medicine including respiratory, cardiology and gastroenterology and neurology

General surgery and trauma and orthopaedics,

Obstetrics and gynaecology,

ENT and Ophthalmology,

Paediatrics including intensive care,

Anaesthetics and Adult intensive care.

The specialties that are not on site include **neurosurgery and burns/plastics/cardiothoracic/vascular**

The regional pre-hospital services bring patients directly to you –and provide a prior alert for the arrival of a severely injured or unwell patient. The ambulance will have a paramedic (not a doctor) who can insert cannulae, give limited drugs and intubate where required.

The hospital runs a trauma team and a cardiac arrest team that can be called. There is a paediatric response team that will also attend if requested.

The department

You should assume that you are one of the most senior doctors in the department – equivalent to a consultant or attending.

There is no doctor more senior than you in the department although they would be available by phone.

You have junior doctors with you who may be

Emergency medicine trainees – of around 3 years experience

Junior doctors who are only 1-2 years experience

There are good nursing staff – who are legally allowed to give drugs (when prescribed) IV, defibrillate and insert cannulae/take blood. The nurse in charge will be an experienced nurse who will have at least 3-5 years experience.

There is a Major Incident plan for the hospital which is a standard plan with no exceptional features. Escalation if the Department is overwhelmed would be via the major incident plan process.

There is easy access to CT scan within one hour – MRI is not available out of hours.