



## **Expressions of Interest for Sessional Critical Care Retrieval Consultants**

The National Ambulance Service Critical Care and Retrieval Services (NAS CCRS) have a requirement for consultants to deliver sessional commitment and support to the **Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance Service (MICAS)** operating from the MICAS east hub in Dublin. This will initially be for a period of one year, with review thereafter.

### **The National Ambulance Service (NAS)**

The NAS is the statutory pre-hospital emergency and intermediate care provider for the State. The NAS provides intermediate care, emergency and specialist ambulance services. The NAS is also responsible for coordination and tasking of aeromedical services. NAS responds to over 300,000 ambulance calls each year, 400 intermediate care transports and more than 800 aeromedical/air ambulance calls.

### **The NAS Critical Care and Retrieval Services (NAS CCRS)**

The NAS Critical Care & Retrieval Services (NAS CCRS) aims to establish and develop a comprehensive retrieval system for critically ill and/or injured patients throughout Ireland's hospital system, such that patients receive the most appropriate care to meet their clinical needs in a timely fashion. The NAS CCRS was established as a service within the National Ambulance Service in 2018. Prior to this, the National Transport Medicine Programme (NTMP) undertook this function. There are three constituent services within the NAS CCRS: the Neonatal Transport Programme (NNTP), the Irish Paediatric Acute Transport Service (IPATS) and the Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance Service (MICAS).

### **The Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance Service (MICAS)**

The Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance Service (MICAS) currently provides a critical care retrieval service for patients aged 16 years and over from three sites (Dublin, Cork and Galway). MICAS is currently delivered by a critical care doctor and critical care nurse/critical care paramedic together with a critical care ambulance and NAS EMT to facilitate the inter hospital transport of critically ill patients.

### **Details of Post - MICAS Operations**

MICAS provides a critical care retrieval service for adults with injury or illness where advanced medical intervention is necessary, to optimise safe transfer. This may include (but is not limited to): ventilated patients, patients with single or multiple organ failure requiring critical care support, patients with compromised physiology, and patients with potential for serious physiological deterioration in transfer.

This service has been semi-elective in nature due to geographical, operational and staffing constraints of MICAS organisation. Thus, emergency critical care transports may have had to be completed by local hospital medical and nursing teams and NAS crews using emergency ambulances. In 2021, MICAS completed 469 inter hospital critical care retrievals, representing a trebling of activity in 3 years.



## How to apply

Eligible applicants, who meet requirements, are invited to submit an expression of interest by sending a detailed CV to [anne.keogh2@hse.ie](mailto:anne.keogh2@hse.ie)  
Informal enquires to [david.menzies@hse.ie](mailto:david.menzies@hse.ie) - Dr David Menzies, National Adult Clinical Lead, NASCCRS, Laurel Unit, Cherry Orchard Hospital, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10.

Please note reassignment by way of secondment will be on the basis of a skill match meeting(s) with Senior Management. Initial screening/short-listing may apply based on the information provided in CVs.

## Purpose of Post

NAS CCRS invites expression of interest from suitably qualified consultants in Intensive Care Medicine, Anaesthesiology or Emergency Medicine to provide day to day clinical cover for the MICAS service in the Eastern Hub. The purpose of this post, alongside additional posts in nursing and paramedicine is to develop and deliver the capacity to rapidly respond to critically ill patients, wherever they present within the Irish hospital system. The goal is to deliver rapid, safe, effective and responsive critical care transport for patients in order to access the level of care they need.

The scope of MICAS will include the ambulance transfer of:

- Critically ill patients, who require an increase in the level of care provided (e.g. dialysis level-3 to level-4 ICU care)
- Patients presenting with or that develop acute critical illness within the hospital system which are not designed or unable to meet the patient's needs
- Critically ill patients who require specialised treatment or diagnostics in a specialised or national centre (e.g. ECMO, neurosurgery, cardiothoracic surgery)
- Patients requiring transfer to critical care services in another facility due to bed capacity issues
- Critical care patients transfer for on-going care to units closer to their home or having completed care in a national center (i.e. repatriation)
- Time-critical patients in accordance with the location of the patient / MICAS team (limited ability to undertake this work at present)

In certain situations, patients outside of this scope may be transferred in accordance with the competencies and qualifications of the MICAS staff as determined by the MICAS consultant and the NASCCRS Clinical Director.

## Location of Post

NAS Critical Care and Retrieval Services, Laurel Unit, Cherry Orchard Hospital, Dublin 10.

## Reporting Relationship & Clinical Governance

The Critical Care and Retrieval Consultant will be professionally accountable to the Clinical Director of the NAS Critical Care and Retrieval Services through the National Clinical Lead for Adult Retrieval whilst providing services for MICAS. A Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) develops for adult retrieval develops and advises the Clinical Director for matters pertaining to adult retrieval.



## **Clinical Commitment**

Presently, the shifts required to be covered are Monday – Sunday, 0800-2000 with a critical care retrieval consultant and nurse based out of the MICAS east hub in Cherry Orchard. The timings (although not the duration) of these shifts may be subject to change. Given the nature of the service, late finishes may be anticipated on occasion. A fatigue management policy is in place.

The critical care retrieval consultant should be immediately available to undertake a transfer within the activation timeline window.

## **Engagement of the Consultant to NAS-CCRS**

This post will be funded by the NAS. Consultant sessions will be remunerated at consolidated pay scales. Appointment will be following skills matching process. The arrangement will be either that of a secondment from the consultant's substantive post, or an overtime arrangement. Remuneration arrangements will be through the consultant's employer by agreement, via a specified purpose secondment or letter of agreement.

The minimum contribution to the clinical rota will be 1 shift per fortnight. This may be averaged on an annualised basis by agreement, so some month to month variation will occur.

## **Training & Induction**

Support and training will be provided as required to interested Consultants, to ensure familiarity with, and competence in, MICAS equipment and procedures.

## **Indemnity**

Indemnity is provided via the Clinical Indemnity Scheme.

## **Performance Management**

The critical care retrieval consultant will be expected to participate in a performance management process to ensure continued professional development in all aspects of the post. The appointment will be initially for a period of 12 months subject to review of the appointee and service requirements.

## **Job Description / Principal Duties and Responsibilities**

This job description is an outline and account of the main duties. Any changes will be discussed fully with the post holder in advance. The job description will be reviewed periodically to take into account changes and developments in service requirements.

The Consultant will:

- Provide clinical care within the MICAS service as requested within MICAS practices and procedures to ensure the safe and timely transfer of critical care adult patients within the scope outlined above.
- Work closely with the National Adult Retrieval Clinical Lead and Call Coordinators in ensuring the NAS call co-ordination service is implemented for all referrals via the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC).



- Participate in the management of patients in conjunction with referring and receiving consultant colleagues.
- Provide, as appropriate, consultation in the consultant's area of designated expertise in respect of patients of other consultants at their request.
- Participate in and/or support nursing and trainee medical staff in retrieving patients from referring hospitals.
- Ensure that duties and functions are undertaken in a manner that minimises delays for patients and possible disruption of services.
- Participate in and facilitate recording of all data required during delivery of duties and functions and for audit purposes.
- Assist with training and outreach education, and to provide feedback and support to retrieval team members and to regional hospitals.
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- Carry out case reviews of retrieval patients
- Support the National Lead for Adult Retrieval in the development of MICAS, through review of policies, procedures and guidelines as required.
- Attend clinical governance meetings arranged for MICAS staff.
- Attend any required training, equipment or service updates.
- Undertake, as part of the retrieval team, a daily shift equipment check
- Participate in a liaison and outreach role as agreed with referring hospitals and training bodies.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

### **Essential Criteria (Qualifications & Training)**

- i. Registered as a Specialist in the Specialist Division of the Register of Medical Practitioners maintained by the Medical Council in Ireland in the specialty of Anaesthesiology, Intensive Care Medicine or Emergency Medicine (or obtain same within 180 days of the date of interview).
- ii. At least 12 months experience in Anaesthesiology & Intensive Care Medicine and/or
- iii. At least 12 months experience with a comparable critical care retrieval service

### **Desirable Criteria**

- i. Have demonstrated strong evidence of professional training and knowledge, with a broad range and depth of experience in Anaesthesiology, Intensive Care Medicine or Emergency Medicine.
- ii. Evidence of recent experience in teaching.
- iii. Evidence of a recent track record in research.
- iv. Clinical fellowship in retrieval



### Skills, Competencies and Knowledge

(The below list is indicative, not exhaustive.)

| Competency  | Essential | Desirable |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Registered as a Specialist in the Specialist Division of the Register of Medical Practitioners maintained by the Medical Council in Ireland in the specialty of Anaesthesiology, Intensive Care Medicine or Emergency Medicine (or obtain same within 180 days of the date of interview). | ✓         |           |
| At least 12 months experience in anaesthesiology & intensive care medicine <i>and/or</i><br>At least 12 months experience with a comparable critical care retrieval service.  | ✓         |           |
| Successful completion of relevant life support/resuscitation/trauma courses previously.   | ✓         |           |
| Full Irish driving license and a willingness to undertake further training.   | ✓         |           |
| Experience in FAST scanning   |           | ✓         |
| Competence in management of acute illness and injury in adults  | ✓         |           |
| Competence in management of acute illness and injury in children  |           | ✓         |
| Competence in independent initial and ongoing advanced management of the critically ill patient including emergency anaesthesia. Experience will be judged on a case by case basis. CV should reflect competence.   | ✓         |           |
| Sound judgment and decision making  | ✓         |           |
| Good understanding of the principles of clinical governance   |           | ✓         |
| Ability to manage complex work and prioritise effectively   | ✓         |           |
| Prior experience working in within a trauma centre (experience of major trauma, major haemorrhage, massive transfusion)   |           | ✓         |
| Prior experience with evidence of working within a established pre-hospital aero-medical or road based critical care retrieval service  |           | ✓         |
| Prior experience with evidence of working within an established secondary retrieval service   |           | ✓         |
| Experience using simulation for education   |           | ✓         |