

UDC 614.8

DOI: 10.33270/01211203.48

## Current State and Prospects of Pre-Medical Training of Police Officers in Ukraine

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■ **Abstract.** The purpose of the study is to examine the current state of pre-medical training of police officers in Ukraine and outline the prospects for its development; summarise the relevant problems of proper training and preservation of long-term knowledge and practical skills, research the conditions for improving the level of skills aimed at saving a person in an emergency, in the system of professional service training of police officers; summarise proposals for improving pre-medical training of police officers within the framework of adapting state training programmes to international standards for providing pre-medical care. According to the set goal and specific features of the subject of the study, methods of system analysis, generalisation, comparative, functional, and other methods of scientific knowledge are used. The scientific originality of the study consists in a systematic analysis of current indicators of the implementation of conditions for the proper implementation of pre-medical training of police officers in Ukraine. The requirements for the introduction of uniform standards in basic professional training, postgraduate education, and training in higher education institutions with specific training conditions, and professional training in this area are systematised. The necessity to improve the mechanism and introduction of measures of the system of continuity of training in the pre-medical care of law enforcement officers is argued. The author's approach to the creation of basic educational and methodological support for pre-medical training of police officers and the need to comply with the requirements approved by state standards, according to the proper training of instructors who have the right to conduct such training, is proposed. Proposals are formulated to supplement the procedures for providing pre-medical care to persons in emergency conditions, approved by Order No. 398 of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine dated June 16, 2014. The existing system of pre-medical training of police officers needs to be improved due to the lack of coherence in the mechanism of continuous training in this area. For the comprehensive development of pre-medical care skills in police officers necessary for the performance of official duties, it is proposed to: 1) approve a unified programme of police training in Ukraine in accordance with the course "First at the scene", based on the provisions of international protocols; 2) introduce a system for monitoring the availability of certificates of successful completion of pre-medical training in police officers, the format of which is determined by the current legislation, and improve the mechanism for retraining police officers, subject to the expiration of these documents; 3) create training departments of pre-medical training centres for basic professional training of police officers in accordance with the requirements of current legislation and to ensure the involvement of specialists in conducting classes who have the appropriate certificate 4) provide training departments of pre-medical training of police officers with educational and methodological materials that fully correspond to the programme mentioned above; 5) supplement the procedures for providing pre-medical care to persons in emergency conditions (order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine No. 398 of June 16, 2014) regarding the protocol for providing assistance in case of sudden (emergency) childbirth

■ **Keywords:** pre-medical training; victim; emergency condition; police; state standard; medical protocol; service training; training department

### ■ Suggested Citation:

Chupryna, O.V., & Nesen, O.O. (2021). Current state and prospects of pre-medical training of police officers in Ukraine. *Scientific Journal of the National Academy of Internal Affairs*, 26(3), 48-55. doi: 10.33270/01211203.48

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■ Received: 26.05.2021; Revised: xx.xx.2021; Accepted: xx.xx.2021

### ■ Introduction

The current stage of reforming the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine actualises the need to form a unified policy in the field of departmental education, optimise the system of existing educational institutions, ensure compliance with the principles of continuity of education and a proper combination of

theory and practice, create an effective professional personnel core [1].

According to the Law of Ukraine “On the National Police”, pre-medical training is an integral part of the professional abilities of a modern police officer. According to its provisions, each employee of the law enforcement agencies faces a number of tasks, in particular, regarding the provision of assistance services to persons who, for personal, economic, social reasons, or as a result of emergency situations, need it, which necessarily provides for the provision of pre-medical care [2].

In providing pre-medical care, the most important factor is the time factor. The more time passes from the moment of injury to the moment of medical care, the worse the prognosis for the victim becomes. Mortality increases exponentially. For example, in cases of transport injuries, if medical care was provided within 30 minutes – 1 hour, the mortality rate among the injured did not exceed 30%. If this period is extended, the mortality rate reaches 60-80%, and the increase occurs exponentially. That is, of the three people who died on the streets of the city, at least two could have been saved if they had received timely assistance [3].

In Ukraine, the emergency medical service operates, and the arrival of its personnel to the victim takes at least 5-10 minutes in an urban area and 15 minutes in rural areas [4]. During this time, every effort should be made to avoid further injuries, improve the condition of the victim, and sometimes even save their life. In this regard, mastering theoretical knowledge and acquiring practical skills in pre-medical care is extremely important for police officers, since most often they are the first to arrive at the scene of an accident.

According to the results of statistics from the World Health Organisation, assistance to the victim provided within the first 4 minutes increases their chances of rescue by 30% [5]. According to the same data, every fifth person killed at the scene could have been saved if timely and correctly provided with pre-medical care.

Practice shows that almost a third of victims of peacetime disasters need pre-medical care for vital signs. The ability to eliminate negative consequences for human health during emergencies of a natural, man-made, or social nature (natural disaster, major industrial accident, transport disaster, group violations of public order) is important in the training of police officers [6].

According to O. Myslova and O. Nykyforova, the reform of the Ministry of Internal Affairs system in accordance with NATO standards will ensure an optimal structure and training of specialists, which, with the minimum resources required for this, will guarantee

the effective implementation of the tasks set. In an unstable criminal situation, this means better control of the situation, increased flexibility in managing forces and means, rapid decision-making, and minimising losses in people and technical means [7].

Passing a single first aid course by emergency services is a global practice. In Europe and the United States, the basic course for rescue and police services is called First Responder. The main idea of this course is to teach rescuers of all emergency services to “speak the same language” [8].

The study shares the position of L. Shostak about the fact that the main principle of training in the pre-medical care of police officers is its standardisation in various educational institutions and departments [9].

The defining task of higher education institutions with specific training conditions is to train a new generation of professional personnel. This will help to provide the National Police with experienced employees who can effectively perform their tasks with the necessary level of training, skills, and professional and personal qualities. Conventional approaches to training law enforcement officers do not fully ensure the necessary efficiency and professional competence of qualified police personnel. Therefore, it would be correct to conclude that there is an objective contradiction between the ever-increasing requirements of modern society for police activities and the conservative theoretical system of police training [10].

Thus, during basic professional training, post-graduate education, training in institutions of higher education with specific training conditions, and official training of police officers, a single state regulatory framework should be used for the training of persons who do not have a medical education, but who, according to their official duties, must provide pre-medical care.

The papers of the following researchers are devoted to the investigation of issues related to the problems of pre-medical training of national police officers: O. Boiko, P. Volianskyi, A. Grynzovskyi, S. Guriev, M. Dovgyi, N. Drozdenko, T. Zhylin, V. Kuzmin, V. Kushnir, A. Makarenko, O. Myslova, O. Nykyforova, M. Striuk, V. Stebliuk, V. Tashmatov, L. Shostak, who examined the problems of legislative regulation of the activities of police officers in this area.

According to the authors, the main problem in modern conditions is that a holistically coordinated training programme for training police officers in pre-medical care in Ukraine has not yet been approved.

An important problem is the insufficient provision of educational and training departments of pre-medical training of law enforcement officers with basic educational and methodological materials: textbooks, educational, methodological and,

multimedia manuals, video lecture courses, training films on emergency simulation scenarios that fully correspond to the above programme.

The problem of imperfect development of the mechanism and implementation of measures of the system of continuity of education for pre-medical training of police officers remains unresolved. The term of professional development in this area requires full compliance with approved state standards.

It is necessary to consider certain omissions in the rules and algorithms for providing pre-medical care in the event of various pathological conditions, which are set out in the order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine "On approval of procedures for providing pre-medical care to persons in emergency conditions" dated June 16, 2014, No. 398. The officially introduced training programme for law enforcement officers should be conducted in accordance with protocols approved at the state level, which necessarily contain algorithms for actions to provide pre-medical care both in everyday and crisis situations (extreme or emergency events).

During the performance of professional duties, police officers can often witness sudden childbirth, because the presence of a pregnant woman in life-threatening conditions or her independent presence in the time of emergency situations often leads to an unexpected birth of a child.

In recent years, the news has repeatedly reported on the successful implementation of pre-medical care by law enforcement officers in such cases [11]. Therefore, according to the authors, there is an urgent need to develop and approve by regulatory documents the procedure for providing pre-medical care in the event of an emergency (sudden) birth.

Existing disagreements negatively affect the development and improvement of knowledge and skills of police officers in pre-medical care.

This is confirmed, for example, by the data of monitoring visits conducted by the National Preventive Mechanism. Thus, in the special reports of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the state of implementation of the National Preventive Mechanism in the section "Violation of the right to health protection and medical care", it is constantly stated that the bodies and institutions do not comply with the requirements of Art. 3 of the Law of Ukraine "On Health Protection" regarding the organisation of pre-medical care [5].

It is concluded that a complex of problems that do not contribute to the proper training of police officers in pre-medical care remains unresolved. The main ones are considered below.

*The purpose of the study* is to examine the current state of pre-medical training of police officers

in Ukraine according to the norms of current legislation and outline the prospects for its development.

The following tasks are defined to achieve this goal:

1. summarise the current problems of proper training and preservation of long-term knowledge and practical skills aimed at saving a person in an emergency and research the conditions for improving the level of skills of police officers in this area in the system of professional service training;

2. provide proposals for improving the pre-medical training of police officers as part of the adaptation of state training programmes to international standards for the provision of pre-medical care.

The study analyses the current state of the system of pre-medical training of police officers in Ukraine, identifies gaps in the regulatory framework on this issue. The requirements for the introduction of uniform standards for basic professional training, postgraduate education, and training in higher education institutions with specific training conditions, and official training of police officers are generalised. The necessity of improving the mechanism and introducing measures of the system of continuity of education for pre-medical training is argued. The approach to the creation of basic educational and methodological support for pre-medical training of police officers and the need to comply with the requirements approved by state standards, within the framework of proper training of instructors who have the right to conduct such training, are outlined. Proposals are formulated to supplement the procedures for providing pre-medical care to persons in emergency conditions, approved by Order No. 398 of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine dated June 16, 2014.

## ■ Results and Discussion

According to the provisions of the Law of Ukraine "On emergency medical care", persons who are required to provide pre-medical care to a person in an emergency are, in particular, police officers who do not have a medical education, but according to their official duties must have practical skills in providing it [12].

In the current conditions, the training of law enforcement officers for pre-medical care should be conducted in accordance with Art. 18 of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police", the concept of development of the emergency medical care system, approved by the order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated May 22, 2019, No. 383, the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated November 21, 2012, No. 1115 "On approval of the procedure for training and advanced training of persons who are required to provide pre-medical care",

paragraph 8 of the regulations on the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, approved by the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated March 25, 2015, No. 267 (as amended by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 90 of January 24, 2020), and according to the Order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine No. 1627 of August 4, 2021 “On improving training for providing pre-medical care to persons who do not have a medical education”.

Training programmes and advanced training programmes in pre-medical care, according to the latest regulatory document, are developed based on the basic requirements of the international programmes “Fundamentals of life support”, “First at the scene”, “Professional life support” for the development of first aid skills of three levels for people who do not have a medical education.

The second level of the programme – “First at the scene” – provides for the preparation of persons who arrived at the scene, both individually and as part of groups, for the appearance of professional medical workers. The first person at the scene of an accident is a person who performs basic manipulations to save the victim’s life using a minimum set of equipment or in its complete absence (this category also includes police officers).

The course material “First at the scene” is based on the provisions of the international programmes BLS (basic life support) – basic resuscitation measures, PBLIS (paediatric basic life support) – basic resuscitation measures in children, Bcon (bleeding control) – providing pre-medical care in case of massive bleeding, ITLS (international trauma Life support)/PHTLS (prehospital trauma life support) – providing assistance to the injured at the pre-hospital stage. The course also provides for consideration of general concepts about the structure of the human body and the functioning of organs and systems, and training in the basic principles and skills necessary for assessing the condition of the victim and providing pre-medical care in extreme conditions before the arrival of the emergency medical team [13].

According to the provisions of this order, upon completion of the course and successful completion of the theoretical and practical parts of the exam, the participant receives a certificate, which is valid for two years.

After completing the training, each law enforcement officer must have a perfect knowledge of the following issues:

- rules for examining the scene of an accident and observing their own safety during the provision of pre-medical care;
- methods for assessing signs of life in victims with sudden circulatory arrest;

- rules for calling emergency medical care and communicating with the ambulance dispatcher;
- algorithms for cardiopulmonary resuscitation in adults;
- algorithms for performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation using an automatic external defibrillator;
- rules for determining the presence of upper respiratory tract obstruction;
- algorithms for restoring airway patency in victims.

This order approved the requirements for the training of the state institution “Ukrainian scientific and practical centre for emergency care and Disaster Medicine of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine” instructors who have the right to conduct training on pre-medical care of rescuers of the second level – police officers. According to the approved requirements, persons with higher education with a junior bachelor’s degree in any specialities of the field of knowledge “Healthcare”, having practical experience in the fields of healthcare, civil security, social protection (at least 2 years), and having previously successfully completed training under the third-level programme or the programme for medical workers of the emergency medical care system are allowed to study under the programme “Pre-hospital care instructor”.

Unfortunately, not all institutions of higher education with specific training conditions and during the official training of employees of the National Police of Ukraine comply with these legislative norms. In some units, police training is conducted in accordance with uncoordinated protocols, for example, tactical medicine, the purpose of which is a set of actions and manipulations to provide pre-medical care to victims in combat conditions (Tactical Combat Casualty Care) (TCCC), or tactical emergency medical care (TEMC). A detailed analysis of these protocols is described in previous publications [14].

An important factor in maintaining the level of sufficient knowledge and skills in pre-medical training of police officers is the control of retraining in this area. There is no single well-established system for completing pre-medical care courses (every three years) and monitoring the availability of certificates for police officers.

It is necessary to overcome the non-compliance of instructors with the established requirements of legislative acts (such “training” is now conducted by many inexperienced people and even scammers) to achieve the proper level of training in pre-medical care.

Notably, the discipline “Pre-medical training” for all categories of students of the National Academy of Internal Affairs has been taught as part of the course “First at the scene” since 2016. Academic and working programmes of the discipline for bachelors, students of postgraduate education and

in the system of basic professional training fully correspond to the content, plan, and requirements for acquiring knowledge and skills in this course [13].

This type of training is designed to develop the skills of providing emergency pre-medical care to the victim at the scene by knowing the rules for stopping bleeding, working with dressings, restoring respiratory function, and performing resuscitation measures. Practical classes are conducted according to scenarios (situational tasks), which contain several possible scenarios depending on the activity of the participant or their team [8].

Pre-medical training classes are conducted by teachers with higher medical education, with the mandatory involvement of instructors of the Pre-Medical Training Department of the Kyiv Centre for Basic Professional Training "Police Academy" of the National Academy of Internal Affairs. Each of them has been trained in the "Pre-hospital care instructor" programme and has a corresponding certificate. The necessary equipment and materials for conducting pre-medical training are provided to develop students' practical skills, according to the requirements of the order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine No. 1627 of August 4, 2021.

After completing their studying, according to the programme of the academic discipline "Pre-medical training", students of the National Academy of Internal Affairs acquire the following skills:

- determination of breathing in a victim with suspected sudden circulatory arrest;
- restoration of airway patency by the manual method;
- restoration of airway patency by extending the lower jaw;
- performing chest presses during cardiopulmonary resuscitation in adults;
- performing artificial lung ventilation in adults;
- restoration of patency of the upper respiratory tract in case of obstruction in adults;
- use of an external automatic defibrillator during cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
- providing the victim with a stable position;
- determination and evaluation of respiration in children with suspected sudden circulatory arrest;
- restoration of airway patency by manual method in children of different age groups;
- restoration of airway patency by extending the lower jaw;
- performing chest presses during cardiopulmonary resuscitation in children of different age groups;
- performing artificial lung ventilation in children of different age groups;
- restoration of patency of the upper respiratory tract in case of obstruction in children of different age groups;

- providing children of different age groups with a stable position;
- determination of signs of heavy external bleeding;
- identification of signs of internal bleeding;
- stopping bleeding with a pressure bandage;
- stopping bleeding with rubber and haemostatic tourniquet of the CAT type;
- application of a bandage to the limbs;
- application of a neck collar in case of injuries to the cervical spine;
- immobilisation of the victim on a long transportation board;
- evacuation of the victim from the vehicle.

Each student is issued a certificate of successful completion of pre-medical training in the course "first at the scene of an accident", the format of which is determined by law.

Over the past five years, the authors team of the National Academy of Internal Affairs has published a number of textbooks, teaching aids and memos, lecture courses, multimedia manuals, and distance courses, which were awarded honorary awards by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine.

In addition to all the rules and procedures for providing pre-medical care approved by the relevant order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, the authors proposed to use an algorithm of assistance during emergency (sudden) childbirth in the designated educational and methodological base, which can be applied to create a proper order in the new version of the Order [15].

## ■ Conclusions

In the current conditions, the level of knowledge and skills of police officers in pre-medical care does not meet the current state and international standards, certifying gaps in legislation and inadequate level of activities in this area. The main reason for this situation is the lack of coherence in the education system mechanism for the pre-medical training of police officers, which requires urgent improvement. The study believes that mastering the skills of pre-medical care necessary for the performance of their official duties by police officers requires applying the same regulatory standards for their training in different educational institutions and training departments. The following is proposed to resolve this issue:

Approve a single police training programme in Ukraine within the course "First at the scene", which is based on the provisions of the international programmes BLS (basic life support) – basic resuscitation measures, PBLS (paediatric basic life support) – basic resuscitation measures in children, Bcon (bleeding control) – providing pre-medical

care in case of massive bleeding, ITLS (international trauma Life support)/PHTLS (prehospital trauma life support) – providing assistance to the injured at the prehospital stage;

- introduce a system for monitoring police officers regarding the availability of certificates of successful completion of pre-medical training, the format of which is determined by the current legislation, and improve the mechanism for conducting retraining of police officers in case of the expiration of these documents;

- create training departments of pre-medical training centres for basic professional training of police officers in accordance with the requirements of current legislation and provide them with professional specialists who have been trained under the “Pre-hospital care Instructor” programme and have the appropriate certificate;

- provide training departments of pre-medical training of police officers with educational and methodological materials: textbooks, educational,

methodological, and multimedia manuals, video lectures courses, and training films based on emergency simulation scenarios that fully correspond to this programme;

- implement measures to make additions to the procedures for providing pre-medical care to persons in emergency conditions by Order No. 398 of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine dated June 16, 2014, regarding protocols for providing assistance in case of sudden (emergency) childbirth.

According to the authors, to avoid disagreements in the system of training for the pre-medical care of police officers, the latter should be based on the regulatory framework approved by joint orders of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine.

A well-defined procedure for cooperation, and joint and well-coordinated work of police officers and employees of other rescue services will substantially strengthen the effectiveness of providing pre-medical care to victims.

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## Сучасний стан і перспективи домедичної підготовки поліцейських в Україні

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■ **Анотація.** Мета статті – дослідити сучасний стан домедичної підготовки поліцейських в Україні й окреслити перспективи її розвитку; узагальнити актуальні проблеми належного навчання та збереження довготривалих знань і практичних навичок, здійснити наукове дослідження умов підвищення рівня вмінь, спрямованих на порятунок людини в невідкладному стані, у системі професійної службової підготовки поліцейських; узагальнити пропозиції з удосконалення домедичної підготовки працівників поліції в межах адаптації державних навчально-тренувальних програм до міжнародних стандартів з надання домедичної допомоги. Відповідно до поставленої мети та специфіки предмета дослідження використано методи системного аналізу, узагальнення, порівняльний, функціональний та інші методи наукового пізнання. Наукова новизна публікації полягає в системному аналізі сьогочасних показників реалізації умов до належного здійснення домедичної підготовки поліцейських в Україні. Систематизовано вимоги щодо запровадження єдиних стандартів під час первинної професійної підготовки, післядипломної освіти, підготовки в закладах вищої освіти із специфічними умовами навчання та службової підготовки за цим напрямом. Аргументовано необхідність удосконалити механізм і запровадження заходів системи безперервності підготовки з домедичної допомоги правоохоронців. Запропоновано авторський підхід до створення базового навчально-методичного забезпечення занять з домедичної підготовки поліцейських і необхідності дотримання вимог, затверджених державними стандартами, відповідно до належної підготовки інструкторів, які мають право здійснювати таке навчання. Сформульовано пропозиції стосовно доповнення Порядків надання домедичної допомоги особам при невідкладних станах, затверджених наказом Міністерства охорони здоров'я України від 16 червня 2014 року № 398. Наявна система домедичної підготовки поліцейських потребує вдосконалення у зв'язку з недостатньою злагодженістю механізму безперервного їх навчання за цим напрямом. Для всебічного формування в поліцейських необхідних для виконання службових обов'язків навичок з домедичної допомоги запропоновано: 1) затвердити єдину програму підготовки поліцейських в Україні відповідно до курсу «Перший на місці події», що ґрунтується на положеннях міжнародних протоколів; 2) запровадити систему моніторингу наявності посвідчень про успішне проходження домедичної підготовки в працівників поліції, формат якого визначений чинним законодавством, і вдосконалити механізм проведення перепідготовки поліцейських, за умов закінчення терміну дії цих документів; 3) створити навчально-тренувальні відділення домедичної підготовки центрів первинної професійної підготовки поліцейських згідно з вимогами чинного законодавства й забезпечити залучення до проведення занять фахівців, які мають відповідний сертифікат; 4) забезпечити навчально-тренувальні відділення домедичної підготовки працівників поліції навчально-методичними матеріалами, які цілком відповідають зазначеній вище програмі; 5) доповнити Порядки надання домедичної допомоги особам при невідкладних станах (наказ Міністерства охорони здоров'я України від 16 червня 2014 року № 398) щодо протоколу з надання допомоги в разі раптових (екстрених) пологів

■ **Ключові слова:** домедична підготовка; постраждалих; невідкладний стан; поліцейський; державний стандарт; медичний протокол; службова підготовка; навчально-тренувальне відділення