

## **AMBULANCE STAFF SET TO MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE FOR HEART ATTACK PATIENTS**

The Ambulance Service Association warmly welcomes the £14 million funding announcement by the Minister for Health, Hazel Blears, to equip front-line ambulances to treat heart attack patients quicker than ever before.

The funding will see every ambulance in the 32 NHS ambulance service trusts in England fitted out with:

- 12-lead ECG machines to allow paramedics to diagnose heart problems;
- communications equipment to relay the ECG diagnosis data direct from the ambulance en route to hospital; and,
- thrombolytic drugs to disperse blood clots.

“The Association is particularly pleased that England’s 8,500 paramedics will be trained in diagnosis and the use of thrombolytic equipment and drugs,” says Richard Diment, ASA Chief Executive.

“Paramedics will be more effective in their frontline role because they will be able to undertake comprehensive treatment for heart attack patients. As a result of this faster and more direct response, we can expect thousands of lives to be saved. Timely treatment is everything to heart attack patients.”

“Together with the New Opportunities Fund announcement of £26.5 million for defibrillators and monitors for ambulances and hospitals to improve heart disease services earlier this month, today’s announcement confirms the extremely important role of ambulance services in the NHS. This provides the tools and training paramedics need to deliver the best patient care available.”

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