

DS4 – Medical and Veterinary Cover for BHS Events

March 2021 – Version 2
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There are some minimum medical and veterinary requirements for activities run by a BHS Committee. The level of cover required is dependent on the type of activity being run.

Medical Cover

Organiser's Responsibilities for Medical Cover

It is the responsibility of the event organiser to do the following:

- 1) Ensure there is adequate medical provision for the type of activity being run
- 2) Use the risk assessment to ascertain what level of cover is appropriate, looking at things such as:
 - a. Type of activity
 - b. Number of attendees
 - c. Accessibility of site including the ability of the medics / vet to access all aspects of the site
 - d. Proximity of emergency services / known response times of county ambulance
 - e. Any control measures that need to be put in place to lower this risk
- 3) Document the above information - ideally in the Event Safety File

Levels of Medical Cover

There are three different levels of medical cover for BHS activities;

Level 1

Emergency first aider with a suitable first aid kit;

This is someone who holds an **Emergency First Aid at Work** certified qualification, accredited by a training organisation regulator (Ofqual, SQA or the Welsh Government) or voluntary aid society (St John Ambulance, St Andrew's First Aid or British Red Cross). This is usually a 1 day course for both the initial and refresher, and costs around £120.

Level 2

First Aid at Work (FAW) first aider with a suitable first aid kit;

This is someone who holds either:

- a. **A First Aid at Work** certified qualification, accredited by a training organisation regulator (Ofqual, SQA or the Welsh Government) or voluntary aid society (St John Ambulance, St Andrew's First Aid or British Red Cross). This is usually a 3 day initial course with a 2 day refresher every three years. Costs vary across suppliers from around £270 for the initial course and £200 for a refresher.

OR

- b. **BHS Equine Specific First Aid** Completed Course presented by Skillbase and booked through the BHS. This is usually a 2 day initial course with a 1 day refresher every three years. BHS first aid courses are presented by CHS training in Scotland and jointly issued by the BHS and Browne McKee partnership in Ireland. Costs for 2020

are £179 for the initial course and £109 for a refresher, and all BHS Volunteers receive a 10% discount on these prices. A minimum of 6 delegates are required to run a course, along with a suitable venue. Alternatively, 'open' courses are also run which individuals can attend. For further information or to make a booking, please contact the BHS office at education@bhs.org.uk.

Level 3

Registered and qualified paramedic OR trauma trained doctor with a 4 wheel drive ambulance capable of moving a casualty from a remote site using approved medical rescue equipment as deemed medically appropriate by attending medical staff;

Minimum Medical Cover Requirements for BHS Activities

TYPE OF ACTIVITY	MINIMUM MANDATORY LEVEL OF MEDICAL COVER
Dressage & Riding Test	Level 2
Showing	Level 2
Show & Style Jumping	Level 2
Working Hunter	Level 2
Arena Eventing – with knock-down fences	Level 2
Arena Eventing – with solid / fixed fences	Level 3
XC Competition	Level 3
Eventing (remember to assess each phase of the competition separately)	Level 3
Fun ride – with no jumps or knock-down fences	Level 2
Fun ride – with solid / fixed fences	Level 3
Camps (dependant on activities)	Level 2
Lecture Demos	Level 2
Escorted Ride	Level 2
Park & Ride	Level 2
Lessons (including XC)	Level 2
Stable Management	Level 1
Yard Visits	Level 1
Quiz	Level 1
General Social Activities	Level 1

Veterinary Cover

Organiser’s Responsibilities for Medical Cover

It is the responsibility of the event organiser to do the following:

- 1) Ensure there is adequate veterinary provision for the type of activity being run
- 2) Use the risk assessment to ascertain what level of cover is appropriate, looking at things such as:
 - a. Type of activity
 - b. Number of attendees
 - c. Accessibility of site including the ability of the medics / vet to access all aspects of the site
 - d. Proximity of veterinary services / known response times if ‘on-call’
 - e. Any control measures that need to be put in place to lower this risk
- 3) Document the above information - ideally in the Event Safety File

Levels of Veterinary Cover

There are two different levels of veterinary cover for BHS activities;

Level 1

Vet on Call:

- This must be a suitable vet with suitable kit i.e. large animal vet
- The risk assessment must consider the time take for the vet to arrive on site
- The vet **MUST** be aware they are on call
- The details for this type of cover should be put on the schedule or booking form so everyone attending is aware of the arrangements for cover and can make a decision to still participate

Level 2

Vet on Site:

- This must be a suitable vet with suitable kit i.e. large animal vet
- With the facility to transport an injured horse i.e. a dedicated vehicle and trailer or horse ambulance
- With the equipment needed for the humane destruction of a horse and removal of the body

Minimum Veterinary Cover Requirements for BHS Activities

TYPE OF ACTIVITY	MINIMUM MANDATORY LEVEL OF MEDICAL COVER
Dressage & Riding Test	Level 1
Showing	Level 1
Show & Style Jumping	Level 1
Working Hunter	Level 1

Arena Eventing – with knock-down fences	Level 1
Arena Eventing – with solid / fixed fences	Level 2
XC Competition	Level 2
Eventing (remember to assess each phase of the competition separately)	Level 2
Fun ride – with no jumps or knock-down fences	Level 1
Fun ride – with solid / fixed fences	Level 2
Camps (dependant on activities)	Level 1
Lecture Demos	Level 1
Escorted Ride	Level 1
Park & Ride	Level 1
Lessons (including XC)	Not applicable unless identified in risk assessment
Stable Management	Not applicable unless identified in risk assessment
Yard Visits	Not applicable unless identified in risk assessment
Quiz	Not applicable unless identified in risk assessment
General Social Activities	Not applicable unless identified in risk assessment

Important Points to Remember

- All events and activities must have undergone a medical and veterinary risk assessment, documented to establish appropriate levels and control measures in place prior to the event or activity. This should take into account the following:
 - Type of the activity
 - Number of persons attending
 - Nature of persons attending
 - Location of the activity
 - Environment in which the activity is taking place
 - Proximity of external medical and veterinary services
- Ensure all bookings for medics and vets are confirmed in writing.
- Confirm final arrangements with medics and vet before the activity.
- Include the arrangements for cover in any schedule or booking form.
- Remember that minimum requirements can always be enhanced if required.
- For events where there are multiple phases running (such as a one-day-event or horse trials), medical and veterinary cover should be considered for each phase separately. For example, if you only plan to have one paramedic or trauma trained doctor on site for a ODE, and they are called to treat someone on the XC course, then you would not be able to allow the dressage or SJ to continue, unless you also had the correct level of first aider present.
- Any deviation from these minimum requirements may affect the insurance cover.

- For insurance purposes, any first aiders used must be voluntary (paying expenses is acceptable). If a fee is paid, then the first aider becomes a contractor who would need their own insurance cover.
- Any organiser wanting to use a professional with a 'higher qualification' than a FAW / BHS first aid, as the first aider (i.e. a nurse or surgeon), should contact BHS HQ for further details.
- For activities where no minimum requirements are stated, please contact BHS HQ for clarification.
- It can be useful to inform the local A&E department about your events, especially if it is particularly large.
- Have the site postcode, grid reference and ///what3words references at hand and provide these to the medics and vet in case further support is required when dealing with an incident.
- It is the organisers' responsibility to ensure that the nominated medical / vet cover has the relevant qualifications.
- Give some thought to the siting of the medics and vet during your activity. They should be based somewhere central within easy access to the majority of the site.
- Medics and vets should be asked to stay on site for 30 mins after the last horse has finished the activity.
- Consideration should be given to organising a referral veterinary practice should a horse require surgery. The vet on site / call may not always have this facility at their own practice.
- It can be useful to have some sort of screens available throughout the activity, in case a horse or rider needs some privacy whilst being treated. These can be as simple as material attached to poles or canes and should be kept somewhere centrally during the activity.
- A plan should be in place should you need to transport an injured horse off the course for treatment. This could be a horse ambulance or a dedicated vehicle and trailer. Similar thought should be given to the removal of an equine body.
- Details for the disposal of an equine body can be useful as the vet on call / site may not always be able to assist with this. This could be the contact number of the local hunt or disposal unit.
- It can be helpful to consider where a suitable area could be for the treatment of any casualties if an ambulance is not present. This should be an area that can provide some privacy to the casualty and may be an office, back room, marquee or something similar.
- If the vet or medics are deployed to deal with an incident, consideration should be given to suspending the activity until the minimum requirements for cover can once again be fulfilled.
- Cost should not be a limiting factor when deciding what medical or veterinary cover would be appropriate.
- Suitable first aid kit is considered to be an HSE approved kit, details of which can be found here: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/firstaid/what-to-put-in-your-first-aid-kit.htm#> The size of the kit is dependent on the number of people it can treat. This should be taken into consideration when deciding what kit would be suitable for your activity.
- Further details on 'approved medical rescue equipment' can be found in the British Eventing Rule Book in Rule 9.7. This is freely available on the British Eventing website. These can be shared with your medics if required.
- For COVID-19 specific advice on providing first aid and veterinary cover, please see **BHS DS8 COVID-19 Event Resumption Guidance**.