
From Medical Transport Technician (TTS) to Medical Emergency Technician (TES) (1): Historical Perspective

MIGUEL RUIZ MADRUGA

Empresa Pública de Emergencias Sanitarias (EPES). 061 Emergencias. Córdoba, Spain.

The Spanish Society of Accident and Emergency Medicine (SEMES) has, since inception, held the development of medical and nursing specialties in our field as one of its primary purposes, including the role of Medical Emergency Technician (TES in Spanish). The latter objective, which has been pursued by the various Boards of Directors of SEMES, materialized during the presidency of Dr. Jimenez Murillo, with the approval of the title of TES by the Ministry of Education and Science and the Royal Decree 1397/2007 of 29 October that sets out the core curriculum. This official recognition of the TES title culminates the process, led by SEMES, and vindicates the claim that the regulation of TES competence and academic training was a major part of reforming the system of prehospital emergency healthcare in our country, in the interests of greater effectiveness and efficiency.

SEMES was the first organization to define the doctrinal body of TES, as well as to accredit qualification through the Certificate of Health Emergency Technicians (CTES). This doctrinal body emerged from the reflection and analysis made in various scientific meetings, with comprehensive participation of the other professionals involved. To understand this long process, it must be said that public administrations regulated the activity as a result of an existing unquestionable need, driven by the request of the group affected. In this case, without SEMES work insistence, it is likely that the new title would not have become a reality.

The work of SEMES with the administration began in the early nineties.

But these contacts did not bear fruit until 1997, when the Ministry of Work, through the National Employment Institute (INEM), invited organizations representing the medical transport

sector to develop a professional certificate, given that autonomous communities were already applying regular minimum training requirements but with differing criteria.

The resulting working group, composed of representatives from SEMES, the National Health Transport Association (ANA), the General Union of Workers (UGT) and Workers' Commissions (CCOO), developed a draft Certificate of Technical Competence in Health Transportation about 18 months later. This draft certificate even passed the mandatory approval process by the General Council of Vocational Training (CGFP). However, it was never formalized as a Royal Decree since the new legislative framework for vocational training in Spain was then being developed by the Ministries of Labour and Education. We can say that this non nato certificate was the forerunner of the current regulation.

But really it was not until the Organic Law 5 / 2002 of June 19 on Qualifications and Vocational Training, that the way was cleared for the approval of the TES title. In December 2003 SEMES was invited by the General Directorate of Professional Training (Ministry of Education) to participate in the working group of health professionals, with the objective of evaluating the professional competence of existing titles and to identify new health professions within framework of professional training. The work carried out by Dr. D. Fernando Ayuso and myself at the National Institute of Qualifications was supported by a working group from SEMES, composed by D. Rafael Fernández López, D. Guillermo Nicolas Fargues, D. José Manuel Palacios Cantarero, D. José Ortega Oliva, D. Antonio Lopez Mayorga, D. Alfonso Picabea Zubia and D. Noren Salvador Valverde, who collaborated actively in the development of all the technical papers presented to the Stae Administration.

CORRESPONDENCE: Miguel Ruiz Madruga. E-mail: mruiz@co.epes.es

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The joint work by SEMES and National Qualifications resulted in the definition of TES professional skills, the technical qualifications for authorized medical transport professionals and those attending multiple victims, through royal decrees 295/2004 of 20 February 1087/2005 of 16 September, (Annex XXV and Annex CXXII). With these Royal Decrees, it can be said that a very important objective has been achieved: to define the framework of TES competency. Now we could take a further leap forward that would lead us to the development and adoption of the title. As a precondition, for the Ministry of Education to start developing the title, it had to be approved by the Ministry of Health, given the healthcare status of TES personnel and their regulation by the Law 44/2003 of November 21, on Regulation of Health Professions. Once authorization was obtained from the Ministry of Health, the General Directorate of Professional Training

convoked us for development of the TES title in early 2007, with the aim of having it published before the end of the year, which came about on 24 November 2007, in the official bulletin BOE nº 282.

The approval of the TES title represents the achievement of our primary objective, after so much hope and effort over the years. The title is a landmark in the career of a professional who in the coming years will participate in the evolution of our emergency systems, and new professional challenges will arise. My heartfelt thanks to all my colleagues for their efforts which have helped make this possible, the various Boards of Directors of SEMES who have given us the necessary encouragement and support, and very particularly to Dr. Fernando Ayuso Baptista and to Dr. Maria Teresa Aguirre Ogalla, without whose personal conviction and sacrifice we would not today have this very promising future professional career.