

Service Specification No.	QVV/0279 v3
Service	Urgent and Emergency Ambulance Service – Hazardous Area Response Teams (HART)
Commissioner Lead	Programme Director – Urgent and Emergency Care, NHS Dorset ICB
Provider Lead	Deputy Director of Operations
Period	1 st April 2025 – 31 March 2026
Date of Review	1 January 2026

1. Population Needs

1.1 National/local context and evidence base

Hazardous Area Response Teams (HART) have been established to enable ambulance services to save lives in environments where previously, our staff have been unable to safely operate. The development and implementation of HART began in 2005 and has been funded and initially managed centrally by Department of Health (DH). This was to ensure the concept was set up to a standard model across each of the ambulance trusts involved.

Since June 2011, responsibility for delivery of emergency preparedness policy in ambulance services in England has been delegated to the National Ambulance Resilience Unit (NARU), hosted by West Midlands Ambulance Trust through a Service Level Agreement with DH

2. Outcomes

2.1 NHS Outcomes Framework Domains & Indicators

Domain 1	Preventing people from dying prematurely	x
Domain 2	Enhancing quality of life for people with long-term conditions	
Domain 3	Helping people to recover from episodes of ill-health or following injury	x
Domain 4	Ensuring people have a positive experience of care	x
Domain 5	Treating and caring for people in safe environment and protecting them from avoidable harm	x

3. Scope

3.1 Aims and objectives of service

It is a requirement that the latest published NARU National HART requirements are adhered to, by Ambulance Trusts and Commissioning Bodies, so that the national HART capability remains resilient and prepared across the whole of England.

The purpose of the specification is to ensure that the model is delivered consistently and maintained appropriately across the country to provide assurance in the systems in place and ease for mutual aid in the event of complex or mass casualty incidents.