



## A Day in the Life of an Ambulance Vehicle Preparation (AVP) Operative

### Introduction

AVP Operatives play a crucial role in ensuring that all vehicles, including emergency ambulances, Patient Transport Service ambulances and rapid response vehicles, are ready for duty. Responsibilities include preparing, cleaning and stocking vehicles to ensure they are operationally safe and equipped for the crews.



### Starting the Day

The shift begins with a handover from the previous team, where any issues or concerns from the previous shift are conveyed either verbally or via the work diary. The daily posting sheet, which lists all the crews on duty and when the required vehicles need to be ready, is then checked. The time each crew starts and finishes is noted on the whiteboard, and operatives are allocated their vehicles accordingly.

### On the Job

AVPs collect their electronic tablets and cleaning products to begin the cleaning and restocking process. The daily prep sheets and whiteboard guide them on the required process for each vehicle. A colour-coding system in the key safe identifies

which vehicles are complete, what process they have undergone, and which ones still need to be done.

In the morning, some vehicles are parked in the cleaning bays, while the majority are parked outside in the red bays. After completing a vehicle, it is refuelled and parked in the green bays, ready for operational duty. Keys are placed in the safe with the appropriate colour tag, and the vehicle is allocated to the next crew on the list.



## Vehicle Maintenance

AVP Operatives ensure that each vehicle is clean and decontaminated, as well as roadworthy, stocked with the correct number of medical consumables and equipped with tested and operational gear, such as vital medical devices.

Any issues such as interior damage or mechanical problems are noted and reported to the Fleet Department. Vehicles with unresolved issues are marked as VOR (vehicle off road) until cleared.

## Hot Load Process

The hot load process ensures that vehicles can be back on the road quickly while meeting minimum stock requirements and ensuring essential equipment is operationally safe. This process involves less checking and testing, but visual awareness is crucial as the vehicle does not require a full clean.

## Additional Responsibilities

In addition to dealing with a large fleet of ambulances, the team also manages Patient Transport Service ambulances, mental health vehicles and rapid response vehicles. Although the tasks are repetitive, each job is unique and requires full attention. Replenishing the stockroom and making consumable packs helps both current and upcoming shifts, as daily stock needs can vary.

## End of the Shift

By the end of the day, there's a sense of accomplishment in ensuring that all vehicles are ready for duty. The replenishing of stock and preparation of vehicles for the next shift makes each effort worthwhile, knowing that the team has made a difference.

**“On finishing your shift, you can feel proud knowing that all your hard work allows the Yorkshire Ambulance Service crews to serve the community and save the lives of patients on vehicles that you have decontaminated, prepared and made ready.”**

### **Challenges and Support**

AVP Operatives may be required to work shifts, including nights and weekends.

Time is critical in emergencies so it's vital that AVP Operatives can be flexible and carry out ad-hoc cleaning at short notice so ambulances can be back on the road ready to help the next patient.

Ambulances sometimes transport patients with infectious diseases, so AVP Operatives are fully equipped with Personal Protective Equipment and follow well-established protocols to minimise any risk. This meticulous approach to cleaning and disinfection is paramount in preventing the spread of infection and maintaining a safe environment for everyone.



**“Every day presents new challenges, but the support among staff and the sense of teamwork ensures that we can provide the best service possible.”**

Management and supervisor support is always available.

### **Joining the Team**

The journey to becoming an AVP Operative typically involves applying for the role through the Yorkshire Ambulance Service website.

Successful candidates undergo a four-week training programme which covers cleaning and testing medical equipment and devices, infection prevention and control, health and safety and clinical consumables.

### **Career Progression**

Once you are an AVP Operative, the main route for career progression would be to an AVP supervisor and other management positions. It also opens opportunities in other areas of the organisation.