

# PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

## Primary Care Paramedicine

Module: 02

Section: 02



- Federal legislation that puts in place conditions by which individual provinces and territories in Canada may receive funding for health care services.
- There are five main principles in the Canada Health Act:
  - Public Administration
    - All administration of provincial health insurance must be carried out by a public authority on a non-profit basis. They also must be accountable to the province or territory, and their records and accounts are subject to audits
  - Comprehensiveness
    - All necessary health services, including hospitals, physicians and surgical dentists, must be insured.
  - Universality
    - All insured residents are entitled to the same level of health care.
  - Portability
    - A resident that moves to a different province or territory is still entitled to coverage from their home province during a minimum waiting period. This also applies to residents which leave the country.
  - Accessibility
    - All insured persons have reasonable access to health care facilities. In addition, all physicians, hospitals etc, must be provided reasonable compensation for the services they provide.

- EMS services in Canada are generally funded, at least in part, by the government of the province or territory in which they operate through the Ministry of Health or Health Department.
- However, paramedics and ambulance services are not mentioned in the Canada Health Act and are therefore not an insured service.
- Provinces may choose to subsidize some of the cost, usually just for patients with a valid provincial health card.
- Health insurance in Canada is universal and publicly funded, therefore the cost of emergency ambulance services is covered to some degree.
- The degree to which individual use of EMS is subsidized by provincial health insurance varies by province, and may be supplemented by either partial fees for service, or from the property tax revenues of local municipalities operating such services.



Paramedics must possess knowledge, skills and attitudes consistent with the expectations of the public and the profession.

- Developed by the Paramedic Association of Canada (PAC)
- Sponsored by HRDC
- Agreement for Internal Trade (AIT)
- Established comprehensive framework for standardizing the paramedic profession
  - First challenge to agree on the names

- Facilitates mobility of the professional
- Forms basis for accreditation of educational programs
  - Accreditation Canada (AC)
- Has become the blueprint for national registry exam
  - Coordinated by the Canadian Organization of Provincial Regulators (COPR)



[www.paramedic.ca](http://www.paramedic.ca)

“It is your responsibility to be familiar with this document”



- As outlined in the NOCP document there are four practitioner levels in paramedicine:
  - Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
  - Primary Care Paramedic (PCP)
  - Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP)
  - Critical Care Paramedic (CCP)



# Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)

- Generally a first responder or entry level position
- Primary assessments, BLS interventions
- Occasionally provide transport
- Do not perform delegated acts

- The PCP has successfully completed a recognized education program in paramedicine at the primary care paramedic level.
- PCPs may be volunteer or career paramedics associated with remote, rural, suburban, urban, industrial, air ambulance and military services. PCPs constitute the largest group of paramedics in Canada.
- Controlled or delegated medical acts in the PCP competency profile include intravenous cannulation and the administration of certain medications

- The ACP has successfully completed a recognized education program in paramedicine at the Advanced Care Paramedic level. An ACP education program may require prior certification at the PCP level (or equivalent).
- ACPs are often employed in rural, suburban, urban, industrial, and air ambulance services. ACP education builds upon the PCP competencies, and ACPs apply their added knowledge and skills to provide enhanced levels of assessment and care.
- Controlled or delegated medical acts in the ACP competency profile include advanced techniques to manage life-threatening problems affecting patient airway, breathing and circulation. ACPs may implement treatment measures that are invasive and/or pharmacological in nature.

(National Occupational Competency Profile for Paramedics, October 2011 – pg 9)

- The CCP has successfully completed a recognized education program in paramedicine at the critical care paramedic level. This is currently the highest level of paramedic certification available.
- CCPs are often employed in suburban, urban, and air ambulance services. CCP education builds upon the ACP competencies, and CCPs apply their added knowledge and skills to provide enhanced levels of assessment and care.
- Controlled or delegated medical acts in the CCP competency profile include advanced techniques, including invasive hemodynamic monitoring devices to manage life-threatening problems affecting patient airway, breathing and circulation. CCPs may implement treatment measures that are invasive and/or pharmacological in nature.

(National Occupational Competency Profile for Paramedics, October 2011 – pg 9)

- We must appreciate the considerable degree of inter-provincial variation.
- NOCP provides a national consensus but each province retains ultimate authority in legislating the actual administration and delivery of EMS within its own region.
- Regulatory frameworks vary from province to province
  - Direct government regulation
  - Professional self-regulating bodies
- Paramedic is a generic description of a category of practitioners that also has provincial variability
  - Alberta uses EMT and Paramedic
  - Ontario uses A-EMCA and Paramedic

- Certification
  - The process by which an agency or association grants recognition to an individual who has met its qualifications.
- Licensure
  - A process of occupational regulation.
- Reciprocity
  - The process by which an agency grants certification or licensure to an individual of comparable certification, licensure or registration from another agency.

- As a paramedic practitioner registered in a Canadian province or Territory, you may submit an application for equivalency recognition and registration if you meet all the following criteria:
  - You have passed the registration examination in the Canadian province where you completed your program of study
  - You are current and fit to practise, and registered with a recognized provincial paramedicine regulator in another Canadian province
  - You meet all the registration requirements for that province or territory

- Some provinces have established a “College of Paramedics”
- Roles:
  - Self regulation
  - Regulatory body
  - Protect public interest
    - Establishing, maintaining and enforcing standards for registration, competency and standards of practice for the profession.
    - Setting the standards for approved paramedicine education programs.
    - Ensuring registered practitioners provide safe and ethical front-line care.