

## PROJECT TITLE: "ASSESSMENT OF ACCESS TO PATIENT HISTORY: A PILOT STUDY IN SASKATCHEWAN"

### Project Summary:

<b>Project Timeline</b>	Project Timeline: January 2017-March 2018
<b>Background/Importance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paramedics are primary health care providers that practice in “pre-hospital” and “non-hospital” settings.</li> <li>They provide timely and safe patient assessment and diagnosis, intervention on the scene and transportation where necessary</li> <li>Accounting for the depth and breadth of paramedic roles and responsibilities, it is important that the provider be appropriately skilled, well informed, and sufficiently resourced to support positive patient outcomes.</li> <li>Paramedics rely primarily on a ‘hands on’ patient assessment to determine an appropriate treatment approach.</li> <li>Patient history or test results are seldom available to support a clinical assessment conducted by a paramedic.</li> <li>Currently approximately ~32 health professions are able to access the eHR viewer (e.g.: physicians, nurses, pharmacists, etc.)</li> <li>Use of the viewer supports a coordinated approach to care and enables secure and appropriate sharing of information between clinicians.</li> <li>This “informed decision-making” reduces the potential for medical errors and the overall cost to the healthcare system arising from duplicate testing and misdiagnosis.</li> </ul>
<b>Objectives of the Study</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ The primary goal of this study was to determine how paramedic access to patient electronic health information impacts clinical diagnosis and treatment.</li> <li>➢ The secondary goal of the research was to examine the impact of the eHR tool on paramedic scope of practice.</li> </ul>
<b>Research Questions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How do paramedics experience their ability to access medical patient history in the field?</li> <li>Do perceptions regarding the value of patient history differ for those who have access versus those that do not?</li> </ol>
<b>Partnership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>eHealth Saskatchewan</li> <li>Saskatchewan College of Paramedics (SCoP)</li> <li>Saskatchewan Health Authority (<i>formerly known as Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Method of Data Collection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Face to face interview</li> <li>Telephone interview</li> </ul>
<b>Study Participants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experimental group: Four Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP) with access to eHR viewer</li> <li>Control group: Four paramedics Advance Care Paramedics (ACP) without access to eHR viewer</li> </ul>
<b>Major Project Findings</b>	In-Progress

**Local and National  
Attention and Media  
Coverage**

Regina Leadership Post: A virtual ride-along with EMS, Published on: February 6, 2017, Retrieved from : <http://leaderpost.com/news/local-news/a-virtual-ride-along-with-ems>

- Twitter and Moments
- Ehealth, *Annual Report 2016-17: In Focus: Emergency Medical Services pilots iPad use to improve patient care*, pg., 11-12
- Saskatchewan College of Paramedics, *Annual Report 2016, Report of the Executive Director, Goal 1: Enhance the paramedic role and professional development in order to be relevant in the health system*, pg. 5-6
  - Ambulance Today, *Innovative Pilot Project Underway in Saskatchewan!* pg., 53, Source: *Summer 2017-Issue 2- Volume 14*
  - National Interest: Mobile paramedicine project competed directly with business and world news.



Twitter CANADA



Virtual Ride-Along with Regina EMS  
eHealth Saskatchewan (@eHealthSK) • 3d ago  
We're live on our first Virtual Ride-Along with Regina EMS! Check it out here: [bit.ly/2DfzJLc](http://bit.ly/2DfzJLc)

Moments CANADA

**Paramedic Quotes**

- “eHR viewer allows the paramedic access to patient medical history including laboratory results, medical records, discharge summary and medication information right at the time they need it; therefore, increasing efficiency and accuracy of decision making.”
- “At the scene, eHR helps to determine whether an underage young girl (i.e., 15 years of age; drunk) is pregnant or not because this result would further assist the first responders including paramedic and police whether she has been taken to custody or hospital.”
- “eHR provide(sic) essential health information of the patient that's available when needed i.e., if a patient is unconscious and unable to provide it.”
- “A growing population of seniors, baby boomers in Saskatchewan with their increased care needs and complexities during an emergency, is a significant reason why the eHR should be used.”