

**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>1. How do paramedics experience their ability to access medical patient history in the field?</li> <li>2. 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

<p><b>Local and National Attention and Media Coverage</b></p>	<p>Regina Leadership Post: A virtual ride-along with EMS, Published on: February 6, 2017, Retrieved from : <a href="http://leaderpost.com/news/local-news/a-virtual-ride-along-with-ems">http://leaderpost.com/news/local-news/a-virtual-ride-along-with-ems</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twitter and Moments</li> <li>• Ehealth, <i>Annual Report 2016-17: In Focus: Emergency Medical Services pilots iPad use to improve patient care</i>, pg., 11-12</li> <li>• Saskatchewan College of Paramedics, <i>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</i>, pg. 5-6             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ambulance Today, <i>Innovative Pilot Project Underway in Saskatchewan!</i> pg., 53, Source: <i>Summer 2017-Issue 2- Volume 14</i></li> <li>○ National Interest: Mobile paramedicine project competed directly with business and world news.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-end;"> <div data-bbox="631 462 1142 876" style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>Twitter CANADA</b></p> </div> <div data-bbox="1223 462 1948 876" style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>Moments CANADA</b></p> </div> <div data-bbox="2002 462 2459 876" style="text-align: center;"> </div> </div>
<p><b>Paramedic Quotes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “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.”</li> <li>• “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.”</li> <li>• “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.”</li> <li>• “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.”</li> </ul>