



Community Paramedic Endorsement

The Saskatchewan College of Paramedics would like to acknowledge the working group members who were responsible for the work on this project. The College is committed to continually building the capacity of our membership to take on this role. Thank you to the following individuals for your contribution to this competency profile:

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Overview:

The Saskatchewan College of Paramedics first developed the Community Paramedic endorsement in 2019. It was recognized at the time that paramedics were being pulled into more diverse roles to meet the demands of the health care system at the time. Since then, the issues of wait times in emergency departments (ED), increased call volumes of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), decreased recruitment and retention rates of health care professionals, and limited access to health care services in rural and remote areas, have steadily increased. Keeping patients close to home or in their community is just as, if not more, important today than it was five years ago.

The Saskatchewan College of Paramedics (SCoP) fully supports the role that community paramedicine has in supporting solutions to manage these challenges. The CP program is an ever-evolving model of collaborative community-based health care.

The Community Paramedic (CP) license endorsement is intended to enhance current paramedic practice. If you are currently a paramedic working in the community and wish to utilize this competency profile, additional training through an approved program is required. Only paramedics that hold the Community Paramedic endorsement may identify themselves as “Community Paramedics”. This also applies to the various programs that provide paramedic care in the community. Only those programs who utilize community paramedics may use the term community paramedicine.

There is no restriction on practicing in the community within the limits of your current license level scope of practice (without the CP endorsement). Those paramedics working within the community should not use the designation Community Paramedics, but rather paramedics



working within the community. Members who use the term Community Paramedics who do not have the endorsement may be referred to the Professional Conduct Committee.

The Competency Profile:

The license endorsed Community Paramedic competency profile builds upon the foundational knowledge of Primary Care (PCP), Intermediate Care (ICP), Advanced Care Paramedics (ACP), and Critical Care Paramedics (CCP).

Community Paramedics must have initially graduated from an approved paramedic program and passed any mandatory registration exam(s). In combination with their previous education and licensing requirements, these practitioners are required to undergo supplementary education through an approved Community Paramedicine program to deepen their understanding of the unique needs of the client and the CP role in the delivery of primary health care services. The Community Paramedic has specialized knowledge and skills to provide care to chronically ill clients in a variety of unique practice environments.

The Role:

As professionals, CPs are committed to the health and well-being of individuals and society through ethical practice, professional regulation, and high personal standards of behavior. The CP is guided by a code of conduct, standards of practice, and commitment to clinical competence, embracing the appropriate attitudes and behaviors, integrity, altruism, personal well-being, and the promotion of public good.

Community Paramedics recognize the need to be continually learning and model this for others through their scholarly activities; they contribute to the creation, dissemination, application, and translation of clinical knowledge.

Scope of Practice:

There are differences between the procedures and medications a PCP/ICP can provide and that of the ACP and CCP. The Community Paramedic competency profile development took into consideration the differences in the initial education between the PCP, ICP, ACP and the CCP.

The Community Paramedic endorsed scope of practice may only be used by those who possess the specific license endorsement. The College acknowledges that some of the CP competencies overlap with current PCP, ACP and/or CCP competencies, however this document is intended to capture the CP scope “as a whole”.

With the introduction of a Community Paramedic license endorsement, SCoP will only define



scope of practice and will not be creating specific clinical protocols. This approach will define maximum allowable practice instead of a mandatory clinical process. Use of scope of practice by the College is consistent with that of other Canadian jurisdictions and regulated health professions. It will permit an employer to define how much of the total available scope of practice they will allow their employees to adopt. The CP will then be able to apply their knowledge, skills, and judgement to determine the appropriate approach to treatment within that scope.

Ambulance services, facilities, or employers utilizing Community Paramedic care, will be responsible for developing the policies, procedures, and protocols as necessary to narrow and clarify the practice of the license endorsed Community Paramedic.

Only the knowledge or skills described in this endorsement and/or the competency profile of the paramedic can be performed. Please be aware that it is not essential that every skill and/or medication be included in a Community Paramedic program. The decision regarding whether to include the skill/medication should be based on the needs of the community.

Advanced Training and Education:

Currently, the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Community Paramedic advanced certificate program is the only approved program. Those looking to apply their education from an alternative program can apply for an equivalency assessment. Those interested should refer to policy 2.7 Equivalency Review in the SCoP policy manual. Educational programs will need to demonstrate equivalency to the competency profile in content as well as the verbiage used for the evaluation methods.