

Rural Advanced Care Community Paramedicine

BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) is establishing a new role for Advanced Care Paramedics (ACPs) in rural BC communities. This role will build on the Community Paramedicine program and introduce Rural Advanced Care Community Paramedics (RACCPs) with broader clinical scope and expertise than Primary Care Paramedic (PCP) qualified community paramedics (CPs).

As this is a new role for ACPs within BCEHS outside of the traditional paramedic role, six positions in diverse communities are being introduced to evaluate the value of having ACPs working in rural BC.

The initial six RACCPs will explore the nature and scope of the role, test and validate processes and practices, help establish clinical guidelines, determine appropriate education, and inform other necessary requirements.

Selected Communities

Island	Interior	North
Campbell River Salt Spring Island	Cranbrook	Fort St. John Prince Rupert* Valemount**

**may provide service to Haida Gwaii ** and the Robson Valley*

Qualifications

All RACCPs hold an ACP license and are screened to ensure they are a good fit for the unique nature of this role. In addition to an ACP license, RACCPs are required to have successfully completed the BCEHS ACP Orientation program.

Additionally, the RACCPs complete the BCEHS two-month CP orientation program, developed in collaboration with the Justice Institute of BC, prior to starting work in their communities.

To further expand their knowledge of caring for critically ill and complex patients, RACCPs also complete BCIT Critical Care Nursing courses.

Medical Oversight

The RACCPs will work closely with local physicians, their BCEHS Local Medical Consultant (LMC), and with 24-hour Emergency Physician Online Support (EPOS). A provincial Medical Director will provide medical leadership and guidance to support the delivery of care for the RACCP program, including:

- Clinical reviews with the RACCPs on a regular basis
- Ensuring medical standards are consistently met
- Liaising with the health care community as needed to support integration and effectiveness of RACCPs
- Supporting the professional development of the RACCPs
- Guiding the development of clinical guidelines to support the RACCP practice

Scope of Practice

Community paramedicine applies paramedic skills and training in a variety of community-based settings, including patients' homes and local clinics.

While the specific nature of the RACCP work in each community is expected to vary based on local needs, the RACCP will primarily have two components to the role – scheduled and unscheduled response.

It is proposed that the RACCP can provide support in the following ways:

- Assess and treat higher acuity patients in their home and community
- Align with and support local physicians, nurse practitioners and other healthcare providers in clinical settings
- Support local health care teams in patient transfers, including pre-transfer patient assessment and assistance with patient stabilization, and preparation for transfer
- Clinical mentorship to paramedics within their station
- Treat and Refer services
- Response to high-acuity emergency events

Referrals

Patient referrals may be initiated by any member of the health care team by completing a Community Paramedicine Request for Patient-Specific Service form. This form includes the patient care parameters and sign-off by the Most Responsible Provider.

The RACCP may also be contacted directly to discuss the support of other services.