 Department of Health Government of Nunavut		Medical Directives and Delegation Community Health Nursing	
TITLE:		SECTION:	POLICY NUMBER:
Primary Care and Advanced Care Paramedic Medical Directive		Nursing Practice	07-041-00
EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW DUE:	REPLACES NUMBER:	NUMBER OF PAGES:
December 23, 2021	June 29, 2022	07-040-00-Primary Care and Advanced Care Paramedic Medical Directive-Update	12
APPLIES TO:			
Primary Care Paramedics, Advanced Care Paramedics			

1. BACKGROUND:

The Department of Health (Health) recognises the need to provide additional healthcare support to communities affected by Community Health Centre (CHC) critical nursing staff shortages which may otherwise significantly impact access to urgent and emergent clinical services. In honouring Qanuqtuurniq and Piliriqatigiinniq, Health has determined that the deployment of Primary Care Paramedics (PCPs) and Advanced Care Paramedics (ACPs) is an effective and efficient solution to meeting the needs of communities impacted by staffing shortages.

PCPs and ACPs will work within the CHC and report to the Supervisor of Community Health Programs (SCHP) or delegate. They will work under the clinical direction of the registered nurse (RN), nurse practitioner (NP) or physician and perform those healthcare activities which they are qualified and authorised to perform in Nunavut.

2. MEDICAL DIRECTIVE AND/OR DELEGATED PROCEDURE:

- 2.1 PCPs and ACPs are responsible and accountable for seeking guidance and support as needed to safely perform assigned or delegated tasks. See **Appendix A** for *Primary and Advanced Care Paramedic Decision-Making Model for Performing Additional Functions and Transferred Functions*
- 2.2 PCPs and ACPs may not perform any task which is beyond their scope of practice that is outlined in the *National Occupational Competency Profile for Paramedics* (Oct. 2011) even if it is delegated by a RN, physician, or NP.
- 2.3 PCPs may not initiate any healthcare activity or task which has not been delegated or assigned by a RN, NP, or physician unless it is within their scope of practice outlined in the *National Occupational Competency Profile for Paramedics* (Oct. 2011)
- 2.4 PCPs and ACPs will follow *Alberta Health Services Medical Control Protocols – (v.4.0) June 1, 2021* (available via app, see reference list) according to their scope of practice in urgent and emergent situations. PCPs and ACPs must further consult with an NP or physician as soon as possible.
- 2.5 ACPs can follow administration/dispensing of narcotics as per the *Alberta Health Services Medical Control Protocols – (v.4.0) June 1, 2021* in consultation with physician or NP and must adhere to the narcotic substance handling protocols within the Government of Nunavut Drug Formulary.
- 2.6 Many of the policies, protocols and guidelines found in the Community Health Nursing (CHN) Manual are relevant for both ACPs and PCPs. **Appendix B** outlines policies that are applicable.
- 2.7 PCPs and ACPs are to adhere to the GN Infection Prevention and Control Manual, and

Housekeeping Manual.

2.8 RNs, NPs, or physicians can direct PCPs to engage in any healthcare activities which they are authorised to perform in Nunavut, provided that they have the knowledge, skills, and ability that is included in **Appendix C** *LIST OF PRIMARY AND ADVANCED CARE PARAMEDIC AUTHORISED ACTIVITIES AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE*.

2.9 PCPs and ACPs can administer Post Exposure Prophylactic (PEP) and other immunizations under a physician order upon completion of the Nunavut Immunization Training Modules and certification as described in Policy 07-005-00 Nunavut Immunization Certification. In addition, PCPs and ACPs can administer COVID-19 and influenza vaccines to eligible populations aged five years and older per COVID-19 vaccine protocols after receiving their Nunavut Immunization Certification. Link for course and test; <https://nunavuthealth.skillbuilder.co/sign-in>

3. RECIPIENT PATIENTS:

3.1 PCPs and ACPs may provide care and support to any patient at the direction of the SCHP or their designate, RN, Physician and/or NP provided that the care and support required falls within their scope of work.

4. AUTHORIZED IMPLEMENTERS:

4.1 PCPs and ACPs can implement those health care activities they are authorised and qualified to perform in Nunavut according to this medical directive provided they have been given direction to implement those activities by a RN, NP, or physician.

4.2 PCPs and ACPs may not implement any healthcare activity which is beyond their scope of practice.

4.3 PCPs and ACPs are not permitted to subdelegate to another regulated or non-regulated health care professional.

4.4 When two or more Paramedics are working together toward a common cause, such as an urgent or emergent situation, any of the paramedics involved in the event may complete the ordered task provided the task falls within their scope of work.

5. INDICATIONS AND CONTRAINDICATIONS:

5.1 RNs, NPs, or physicians may not delegate any task to an ACP or PCP which could be better performed by an available RN.

5.2 SHPs and RNs cannot subdelegate a task which has been delegated to them from a physician or NP or through medical directives and guidelines.

5.3 PCPs and ACPs will follow the decision-making tree in Appendix A when encountering a task with which they are unfamiliar or uncertain if they are able to perform.

6. DEFINITIONS:

Registered Nurse (RN): Regulated healthcare professional able to work autonomously.

Nurse Practitioner (NP): A Regulated healthcare professional with advanced education and more extensive scope of work.

Community Health Nurse (CHN): A CHN is a RN whose scope of work specifically includes providing healthcare support to individuals, families, and a community. CHNs scope of work is more extensive than that of a RN who works within a specific hospital-based setting.

Primary Care Paramedic (PCP): A licensed healthcare professional scope of work includes assessing the needs of patients and providing medical treatment in emergent, and non-emergent situations. PCPs provide care in out-of-hospital, inter-hospital, and community settings.

Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP): A licensed healthcare professional who is specialized in advanced care of medical and trauma patients with a focus on advanced cardiac resuscitation. ACPs can provide care in out-of-hospital, inter-hospital, and community settings.

7. PROCEDURE:

- 7.1 RNs, NPs, or physicians will provide specific direction to a PCP and ACP regarding specific delegated tasks.
- 7.2 PCPs and ACPs must have sufficient competency to perform the delegated task.
- 7.3 RNs, NPs, or physicians who are delegating tasks to a PCP or ACP will document what the task was, and to whom it was delegated to.
- 7.4 PCPs and ACPs must accurately and appropriately document who delegated the task, what task delegated, and outcome in the patient's health record.

8. DOCUMENTATION:

- 8.1 When healthcare activities are delegated to a PCP or ACP it is necessary to document:
 - Name of activities which have been delegated.
 - Name of the implementer/delegator, including designation.
 - Pertinent information related to the procedure performed, such as the patient's response, to be documented in accordance with department documentation standards.
 - PCPs and ACPs must follow Policy 06-008-00 Documentation Standards, Policy 06-008-01 Documentation Standards Guidelines, Policy 06-009-00 Documentation Format, and Policy 06-009-01 SOAP Documentation Guidelines.

9. RELATED POLICIES, PROTOCOLS AND LEGISLATION:

Community Health Nursing (CHN) Manual

<https://www.gov.nu.ca/health/information/manuals-guidelines>

Policy 06-008-00 Documentation Standards

Policy 06-008-01 Documentation Standards Guidelines

Policy 06-009-00 Documentation Format

Policy 06-009-01 SOAP Documentation Guidelines

Policy 07-005-00 Nunavut Immunization Certification

Policy 07-034-00 COVID-19 Laboratory Testing Authority

NUNAVUT IMMUNIZATION MANUAL:

<https://www.gov.nu.ca/health/information/manuals-guidelines>

Immunization Manual includes guidance on Influenza Vaccine

In addition:

Immunization Protocol for Moderna SPIKEVAX® COVID19 Vaccine

Immunization Protocol for Pfizer-BioNTech COMIRNATY® COVID-19 Vaccine

Immunization Protocol for PAEDIATRIC (5 to < 12 years) Pfizer-BioNTech COMIRNATY® COVID-19 Paediatric Vaccine

APPENDICES:

APPENDIX A: Decision-Making Model for Performing Additional Functions and Transferred Functions

APPENDIX B: COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING POLICIES THAT ARE APPLICABLE TO PCP AND ACPs

APPENDIX C: LIST OF PRIMARY AND ADVANCED CARE PARAMEDIC AUTHORISED ACTIVITIES AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE

APPENDIX D: MEDICATION GUIDELINE FOR PCPs AND ACPs

10. REFERENCES:


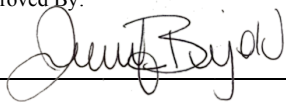
Alberta Health Services Medical Control Protocols – (v.4.0) June 1, 2021

<https://ahsems.com/public/AHS/login.jsp>

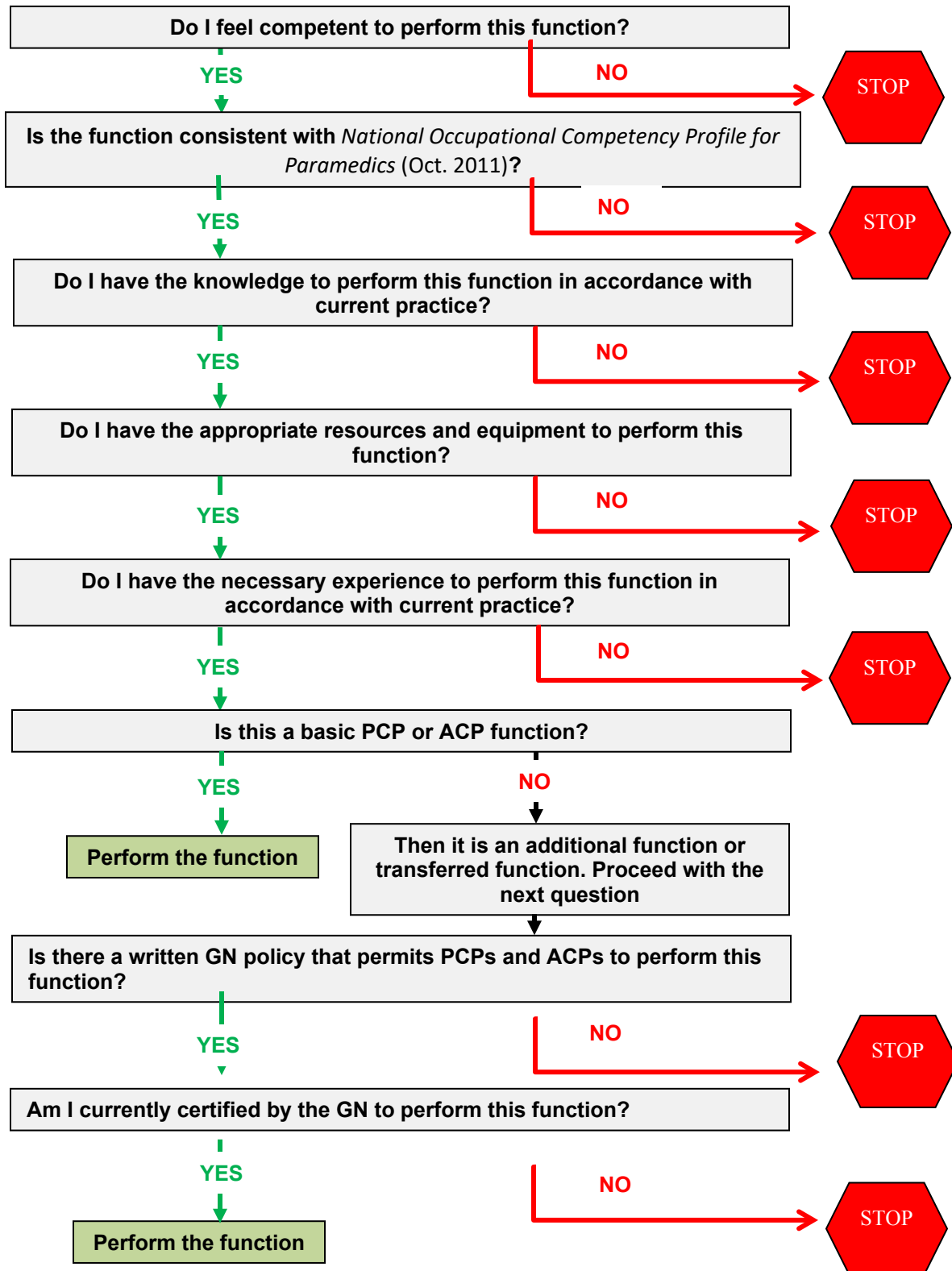
National Occupation Competency Profile for Paramedics, Oct 2011

<https://www.paramedic.ca/uploaded/web/documents/2011-10-31-Approved-NOCP-English-Master.pdf>

11. APPROVALS:

Approved By: 	Date: December 23, 21
Gogi Greeley, a/Assistant Deputy Minister – Department of Health	
Approved By: 	Date: Dec 23, 2021
Jenifer Bujold, a/Chief Nursing Officer	
Approved By:	Date:
Dr. Francois de Wet, Medical Chief of Staff, on behalf of the Medical Advisory Committee	

APPENDIX A: PRIMARY AND ADVANCED CARE PARAMEDIC DECISION-MAKING MODEL FOR PERFORMING ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS AND TRANSFERRED FUNCTIONS



Policies in Community Health Nursing Manual which apply to Primary and Advanced Care Paramedics

Section 2: Organisation		
Policy Number	Title	Applicable to
02-002-00	Core Community Health Nursing Programs	PCP, ACP
02-003-00	Structural Objectives and Indicators	PCP, ACP
Section 3: Definition of terms		
Entire section applicable to both PCPs and ACPs		
Section 4: Standards		
Policy Number	Title	Applicable to
04-004-00	Health Centre Documentation Audit	PCP, ACP
Section 5: Administration		
Policy Number	Title	Applicable to PHNs
05-005-00, 05-005-01	Critical incident stress management and Guideline	PCP, ACP
05-013-00	Orientation	PCP, ACP
05-015-00	Statutes and Legislation	PCP, ACP
05-018-00	Standard Emergency Equipment	PCP, ACP
05-020-00	Equipment Advanced Nursing	PCP, ACP
05-021-00	Occupational Health and Safety	PCP, ACP
05-022-00	Smoke Free Workplace	PCP, ACP
05-023-00	Treating Immediate Family Members	PCP, ACP
05-024-00	Clients in Police Custody	PCP, ACP
05-024-01	Provisions of Care to Clients in Police Custody	PCP, ACP
05-025-00	Gifts	PCP, ACP
05-026-00	Loss of Theft or Property	PCP, ACP
05-027-00	Contacting Clients Through Local Radio	PCP, ACP
05-028-00	Scent-free Workplace	PCP, ACP
05-029-00	Violence in the Workplace	PCP, ACP
05-030-00	Motor Vehicles	PCP, ACP
05-031-00	Fire Response and Evacuation	PCP, ACP
05-034-00	Client Safety Events-Reporting and Management	PCP, ACP
05-035-00	Client Safety Disclosure	PCP, ACP
Section 6: Communication		
Policy Number	Title	Applicable to
06-001-00	Confidentiality	PCP, ACP
06-002-00	Transmission of Health Information by Facsimile	PCP, ACP
06-003-00	Release of Information	PCP, ACP

06-004-00	Intra-Departmental Release of Information	PCP, ACP
06-005-00	RCMP Investigations	PCP, ACP
06-006-00	Health Records Management	PCP, ACP
06-007-00	Health Record Control	PCP, ACP
06-008-00, 06-008-01	Documentation Standard and Guideline	PCP, ACP
06-009-00, 06-009-01	Documentation Format and Guideline	PCP, ACP
06-009-01	Date and Time Sequence	PCP, ACP
06-011-00	Email Consultation	PCP, ACP
06-012-00	Forms Management	PCP, ACP
06-013-00	Interpreter Services	PCP, ACP
06-014-00	Telephone Communication	PCP, ACP
06-015-00	Missed or cancelled appointment	PCP, ACP
06-016-00	Child Welfare	PCP, ACP
06-017-00	Morning Report	PCP, ACP
Section 7: Nursing Practice		
Policy Number	Title	Applicable to
07-005-00	Immunizations: COVID 19 and Influenza vaccines to all eligible populations upon completion of the Nunavut Immunization Training Modules and certification as described in Policy 07-005-00 <i>Nunavut Immunization Certification</i> . Link for course and test; https://nunavuthealth.skillbuilder.co/sign-in	PCP, ACP
07-018-00	Client Identification for Clinic Care	PCP, ACP
07-019-00	Transfer of Care between Colleagues	PCP, ACP
07-020-00	Conscious Sedation	ACP
07-021-00	Restraints	PCP, ACP
07-022-00	Clients on Continuous Observation	PCP, ACP
07-023-00	Non-Urgent Evacuation of Obstetrical Clients	PCP?, ACP
07-024-00	Home Visits Planned	PCP, ACP
07-025-00	Home Visits – Unplanned and Urgent	PCP, ACP
07-028-00	LPN Directive – TB Program	PCP, ACP
07-026-00	Emergency Land Medevacs	PCP, ACP
07-029-00	Infant-Telephone Triage and Infant Assessment (Age 0-12 months) Can not provide telephone triage, to use as guidance for triage	PCP, ACP
07-030-00	Pediatric and Adult-Telephone Triage Can not provide telephone triage, to use as guidance for triage	PCP, ACP
07-033-00	COVID-19 Nursing assessment and advice protocol	PCP, ACP
07-034-00	COVID-19 Laboratory Testing Authority	PCP, ACP
07-035-00	Escalation of Medical Care	PCP, ACP
07-037-00	Community Health Centre Protected Code Blue During the COVID-19 Pandemic	PCP, ACP

07-039-00	Informed Refusal of Treatment	PCP, ACP done with RN, Physician or NP
Section 8: Diagnostics		
Policy Number	Title	Applicable to:
08-001-00	Laboratory procedures	PCP, ACP
08-002-00	Requisitioning laboratory studies	PCP, ACP
08-004-00	Post Mortum Samples-Under the direction from the coroner	PCP, ACP
08-005-00	Acknowledgement of Diagnostic Test Results	PCP, ACP
08-006-00	Follow-up of Abnormal Diagnostic test results	PCP, ACP consult with Physician/NP
08-015-00	Interpretation of ECGs	ACP
08-016-00	Venipuncture	PCP if trained, ACP
08-021-00	iStat Point of Care Testing in Community Health Centres	PCP, ACP
Section 9: Pharmacy		
Policy Number	Title	Applicable to:
09-001-00	Documentation of Allergies	PCP, ACP
09-003-00	Stock Medications	PCP, ACP
09-005-00	Dispensing Medications- Excluding policy 2 statement	PCP, ACP
09-006-00	Administering or Dispensing Pharmaceuticals-Documentation	PCP, ACP
09-007-00	Administering Medications – IM injections	PCP, ACP
09-008-00	Administering Medications – IV Direct	ACP
09-009-00	Administering Medications via Subcutaneous Infusion Set	PCP, ACP
09-010-00	Repackaging Pharmaceuticals	PCP, ACP
09-011-00	Labeling Pharmaceutical Agents	PCP, ACP
09-018-00	Bronchiolitis Management Protocol	ACP
Section 10: Infection Control		
All polices apply to both PCPs and ACPS except: Policy 10-001-00 Communicable Disease Policy 10-001-01 Reportable Communicable diseases		
Section 11: Clinical Procedures		
Policy Number	Title	Applicable to:
11-007-00,	Nasogastric Tube	PCP, ACP
11-007-01	Nasogastric Tube: Nursing Considerations	ACP
11-007-02	Nasogastric Tube: Insertion and Maintenance	PCP may not insert ACP
11-009-00	Anesthesia: Topical, Local and Digital Nerve Block	ACP
11-010-00	Suturing	ACP if trained
11-011-00	Wound Closure: Skin Adhesive	ACP if trained
11-017-00 To 11-017-08	Plaster Splinting	ACP if trained

APPENDIX C: LIST OF PRIMARY AND ADVANCED CARE PARAMEDIC AUTHORISED ACTIVITIES AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Assessment and Diagnostics

- ❖ Conduct triage in a multiple-patient incident; **this does not include telephone triage**
- ❖ Obtain patient history
- ❖ Conduct complete physical assessment of those areas of the body they are qualified and competent to examine, demonstrating appropriate use of inspection, palpation, percussion, and auscultation.
- ❖ Assess vital signs
- ❖ Utilize diagnostic tests
- ❖ Conduct Point of Care Testing (POCT) once Government of Nunavut POCT testing training and competencies have been completed; PCPs and ACPs must follow direction from NP or Physician
- ❖ ACPs and PCPs are permitted to initiate testing for COVID-19 and must follow the *COVID-19 Laboratory Testing Authority Policy Number 07-034-00*

Therapeutics:

- ❖ Maintain patency of upper airway and trachea; explicitly excluding intubation for PCP's and ACPs must consult with NP or Physician prior to advanced airway intervention
- ❖ Prepare oxygen delivery devices
- ❖ Deliver oxygen and administer manual ventilation
- ❖ Utilise ventilation equipment
- ❖ Implement measures to maintain hemodynamic stability
- ❖ Provide basic care for soft tissue injuries
- ❖ ACP can suture with training and competency according to *Policy 11-010-00 Suturing* found in the Community Health Nursing Manual.
- ❖ Immobilise actual and suspected fractures
- ❖ ACPs can apply plaster splint if training completed, please refer to policy *11-0017-00 Plaster Splinting* found in the Community Health Nursing Manual
- ❖ ACPs can administer medications as per *Alberta Health Services Medical Control Protocols – (v.4.0) June 1, 2021* or as directed by NPs or Physicians provided they are competent and qualified to administer the medication
- ❖ PCPs can administer medications provided they are competent and qualified to administer the medication and must be directed by a NP or Physician. **Please see *Appendix D for Medication Guideline for ACPs and PCPs.***
- ❖ **NOTE: RNs such as CHNs or SCHPs cannot subdelegate any medication administration or dispensation to a PCP or ACP.**
- ❖ PCPs and ACPs can administer Post Exposure Prophylactic (PEP) and other immunizations under a physician order upon completion of the Nunavut Immunization Training Modules and certification as described in Policy 07-005-00 Nunavut Immunization Certification. In addition, PCPs and ACPs can administer COVID-19 and influenza vaccines to eligible populations aged five years and older per COVID-19 vaccine protocols upon completion of the Nunavut Immunization Training Modules and certification as described in Policy 07-005-00 *Nunavut Immunization Certification*. Link for course and test; <https://nunavuthealth.skillbuilder.co/sign-in>

Integration

- ❖ Utilise differential diagnostic skills, decision making skills, and psychomotor skills in providing care to patients
- ❖ Provide care to meet the needs of unique patient groups
- ❖ Conduct ongoing assessments and provide care

Transportation

- ❖ Drive ambulance/emergency response vehicle or other vehicle as designated by SCHP for healthcare delivery services
- ❖ Arrange medical evacuation from Community Health Centre
- ❖ Transfer patient to air ambulance

Health Promotion and Public Safety

- ❖ Integrate professional practice into community care
- ❖ Contribute to public safety through collaboration with rapid response team at the direction of the SCHP
- ❖ Participate in management of chemical, biological, radiological/nuclear, explosive (CBRNE) incident at the direction of the SCHP.

Reference

National Occupation Competency Profile for Paramedics, Oct 2011 (pp.9-13)

<https://www.paramedic.ca/uploaded/web/documents/2011-10-31-Approved-NOCP-English-Master.pdf>

Appendix D Medication Guideline for PCPs and ACPs

This list is a guideline from the National Occupational Competency Profile for Paramedics (October 2011) that indicates the groups of pharmacologic agents with which it is recommended that Primary and Advanced Care Paramedics be familiar with.

- ❖ The administration of any medication for a PCP or ACP must be under direction from a Nurse Practitioner or Physician.
- ❖ ACPs may follow Alberta Health Services Medical Control Protocols – (v.4.0) June 1, 2021.

		PCP	ACP
A. Medications affecting the central nervous			
A.1	Opioid Antagonists	X	X
A.2	Anaesthetics		
A.3	Anticonvulsants		X
A.4	Antiparkinsonism Agents		X
A.5	Anxiolytics, Hypnotics and Antagonists		X
A.6	Neuroleptics		X
A.7	Non-narcotic analgesics	X	X
A.8	Opioid Analgesics		X
A.9	Paralytics		
B. Medications affecting the autonomic nervous system.			
B.1	Adrenergic Agonists	X	X
B.2	Adrenergic Antagonists		X
B.3	Cholinergic Agonists		X
B.4	Cholinergic Antagonists		X
B.5	Antihistamines		X
C. Medications affecting the respiratory system.			
C.1	Bronchodilators	X	X
D. Medications affecting the cardiovascular system.			
D.1	Antihypertensive Agents		X
D.2	Cardiac Glycosides		X
D.3	Diuretics		X
D.4	Class 1 Antidysrhythmics		X
D.5	Class 2 Antidysrhythmics		X

D.6	Class 3 Antidysrhythmics		X
D.7	Class 4 Antidysrhythmics		X
D.8	Antianginal Agents	X	X
E. Medications affecting blood clotting mechanisms.			
E.1	Anticoagulants		X
E.2	Thrombolytics		X
E.3	Platelet Inhibitors	X	X
F. Medications affecting the gastrointestinal system.			
F.1	Antiemetics		X
G. Medications affecting labour, delivery and postpartum hemorrhage.			
G.1	Uterotonics		X
G.2	Tocolytics		X
H. Medications used to treat electrolyte and substrate imbalances.			
H.1	Vitamin and Electrolyte Supplements		X
H.2	Antihypoglycemic Agents	X	X
H.3	Insulin		X
I. Medications used to treat / prevent inflammatory responses and infections.			
I.1	Corticosteroids		X
I.2	NSAID		X
I.3	Antibiotics		X
I.4	Immunizations		X
J. Medications used to treat poisoning and overdose.			
J.1	Antidotes or Neutralizing Agents		X

National Occupation Competency Profile for Paramedics, Oct 2011 (pp.171-172)

<https://www.paramedic.ca/uploaded/web/documents/2011-10-31-Approved-NOCP-English-Master.pdf>