

Paramedics

Paramedics provide pre-hospital emergency medical care to patients and transport them to hospitals and other medical facilities for further medical care.

Paramedics perform some or all of the following duties:

- Assess extent of injuries or illness of trauma victims, patients with respiratory disease and stress, overdose and poisoning victims, industrial accident victims and other ill or injured individuals to determine emergency medical treatment;
- Liaise with ambulance dispatch centres, base hospital staff, police, fire, and family members to ensure relevant information is collected and proper treatment is administered;
- Administer pre-hospital emergency care, such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), oxygen, bandaging and splinting to patients;
- Establish and maintain intravenous treatment (IV), apply adjunctive equipment for ventilation and circulation complications, administer medications and provide other emergency treatment to patients;
- Transport patients by air, land or water to hospital or other medical facility for further medical care;
- Document and record nature of injuries and treatment provided;
- Assist hospital personnel with provision of medical treatment, if necessary;
- Maintain ambulances and emergency care equipment and supplies.

Training for paramedicine includes college, hospital-based or other recognized training programs in emergency medical technology and supervised practical training. Those operating emergency vehicles require an appropriate class of driver's licence. Paramedicine is provincially regulated. Requirements and issue of a license to practice are set by the individual regulators.

For more information, visit the websites listed below:

Paramedic Association of Newfoundland and Labrador: <http://www.panl.ca/>

Paramedic Association of Canada: <http://www.paramedic.ca/>

National Occupation Classification 2006 -
<http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/English/NOC/2006/Welcome.aspx>