

ALBERTA COLLEGE OF PARAMEDICS

# Proposed Restricted Activities Standard of Practice

*Submitted for Stakeholder Consultation and Review September 2022*

*This Standard will become part of the Standards of Practice, Clinical Practice (4.0). The current section (3.3) Supervision of Restricted Activities has been revised and incorporated into the following Standard.*

#### **4.1 Restricted Activities**

The Paramedic Profession Regulation (PPR) authorizes regulated members to perform restricted activities as defined in Section 2 of Schedule 7.1 *Government Organization Act*.

When performing any restricted activity, a regulated member must:

1. Only perform restricted activities that are authorized by the profession's regulation and in accordance with the profession's Standards of Practice.
2. Only perform restricted activities they are educated, trained and competent to perform, appropriate to their clinical practice area, and the procedure being performed.
3. Practice within the College's approved scope of practice for their designation.
4. Practice within the restrictive condition(s) placed on their practice permit.
5. Practice in accordance with practice setting (organization/employer) policies and procedures (vehicle operation, equipment use).

##### 4.1.1 Supervision of Restricted Activities

A regulated member who consents to supervise, may supervise another regulated member or students of the paramedic profession or other healthcare professions who are performing restricted activities within their scope of practice, training and/or authorization by their regulatory college.

1. A regulated member who supervises a person performing a restricted activity must:
  - a. be personally:
    - i. Competent to perform the restricted activity,
    - ii. Authorized to perform the restricted activity without supervision,
    - iii. Authorized under the regulation to supervise the restricted activity,
    - iv. Be able to identify and address any competence issues in the performance of the restricted activity,
    - v. Satisfied with the knowledge, skill and judgment of the supervised person performing the restricted activity; and
    - vi. Responsible for the restricted activity performed by the supervised person.
  - b. Ensure it is safe and appropriate for the supervised person to perform the restricted activity on the patient.
  - c. Obtain the patient's (or patient's alternate decision maker's) informed consent for the restricted activity to be performed under supervision unless consent is not possible because of emergency.
  - d. Provide a level of supervision commensurate with the skills and abilities of the person performing the restricted activity and the risk of harm to the patient.
  - e. Be physically present and remain readily available for consultation while the supervised member is performing the restricted activity and for an appropriate follow-up period.

- f. Ensure the person performing the restricted activity is clearly identified in the patient's record.
- g. Ensure the equipment and resources used to perform the restricted activity are safe and appropriate.

#### 4.1.2 Restriction

Despite any authorization to perform restricted activities, regulated members must restrict themselves to performing only the restricted activities that they are competent to perform. Additionally, members must only perform activities that are appropriate to the clinical circumstance and the regulated member's area of practice.

#### 4.1.3 Authorized Restricted Activities

The following is an index of all paramedic practice restricted activities as they appear in the *Government Organization Act*.

**Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs)** registered with the College may, in the practice of the paramedic profession, and in accordance with the Standards of Practice, perform the following restricted activities:

- (a) to cut a body tissue, to administer anything by an invasive procedure on body tissue or to perform surgical or other invasive procedures on body tissue below the dermis or the mucous membrane for the purpose of administering medication by injection;
- (b) to insert or remove instruments or devices beyond the cartilaginous portion of the ear canal for the purpose of examining the ear;
- (c) to insert or remove instruments or devices beyond the point in the nasal passages where they normally narrow for the purpose of airway management;
- (d) to insert into the ear canal under pressure, liquid, air, or gas for the purpose of removing foreign bodies;
- (e) to set or reset a fracture of a bone for the purpose of alignment and immobilization;<sup>1</sup> (Review Enhanced Parameters 4.1.4.1 Fractures)
- (f) to reduce a dislocation of a joint, except for a partial dislocation of the joints of the fingers and toes, for the purpose of immobilization or extrication;
- (g) to administer anesthetic gases for the purpose of administering nitrous oxide with oxygen.

**Primary Care Paramedics (PCPs)** registered with the College may, in the practice of the paramedic profession, and in accordance with the Standards of Practice, perform the restricted activities listed above and the following additional restricted activities:

- (a) to cut a body tissue, for the purpose of wound management;

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<sup>1</sup> Review Enhanced Parameters section 4.1.4.1 Fractures

- (b) to administer anything by an invasive procedure on body tissue or to perform surgical or other invasive procedures on body tissue below the dermis or the mucous membrane for the purpose of providing intravenous therapy or providing an intraosseous infusion;
- (c) to insert or remove instruments or devices
  - i. beyond the pharynx,
  - ii. beyond the labia majora for the purpose of managing an obstetrical emergency,
  - iii. beyond the anal verge for the purpose of administering medications or assessing core temperature, and
  - iv. into an artificial opening into the body for the purpose of administering medication.
- (d) dispense, provide for sale, or sell, incidental to the practice of the paramedic profession, a Schedule 1 drug or Schedule 2 drug within the meaning of the *Pharmacy and Drug Act*;<sup>2</sup> (Review Enhanced Parameters 4.1.4.2 Dispensing for the Purposes of Bridging Medications)
- (e) to insert into the ear canal under pressure liquid, air, or gas for the purpose of removing ear wax;
- (f) to administer a vaccine<sup>3</sup> (Review Enhanced Parameters 4.1.4.3 Vaccines) or parenteral nutrition;
- (g) to administer oral diagnostic imaging contrast agents;
- (h) to manage labour or deliver a baby.

**Advanced Care Paramedics (ACPs)** registered with the College may, in the practice of the paramedic profession, and in accordance with the Standards of Practice, perform the restricted activities listed above and the following additional restricted activities:

- (a) to cut a body tissue, to administer anything by an invasive procedure on body tissue or to perform surgical or other invasive procedures on body tissue below the dermis or the mucous membrane;
- (b) to insert or remove instruments, devices, fingers, or hands
  - i. beyond the point in the nasal passages where they normally narrow,
  - ii. beyond the opening of the urethra,
  - iii. beyond the anal verge,
  - iv. beyond the labia majora, and
  - v. into an artificial opening into the body;
- (c) to set or reset a fracture of a bone;<sup>1</sup> (Review Enhanced Parameters 4.1.4.1 Fractures)
- (d) to reduce a dislocation of a joint except for a partial dislocation of the joints of the fingers and toes;
- (e) to order any form of ionizing radiation in medical radiography.

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<sup>1</sup> Review Enhanced Parameters section 4.1.4.1 Fractures

<sup>2</sup> Review Enhanced Parameters section 4.1.4.2 Dispensing for the Purposes of Bridging Medications

<sup>3</sup> Review Enhanced Parameters section 4.1.4.3 Vaccines

- (f) to order or apply non-ionizing radiation in ultrasound imaging, other than any application of ultrasound to a fetus;<sup>4</sup> (Review Enhanced Parameters 4.1.4.4 Ultrasound)
- (g) to administer blood or blood products.

#### 4.1.4 Enhanced Parameters for Specific Restricted Activities

Several restricted activities are considered accepted practice as they are taught in entry-to-practice education programs. The following restricted activities are outside entry-to-practice education and require further enhanced parameters and College approval in order to perform.

##### 4.1.4.1 Fractures

*to set or reset a fracture of a bone for the purpose of alignment and immobilization*

*to set or reset a fracture of a bone.*

All regulated members are authorized to set or reset fractures of the bone for the purposes of alignment and immobilization (splinting for extrication and transportation).

Despite being enabled by the regulation, no regulated member is currently authorized to perform the restricted activity of setting or resetting a fracture of a bone for the purposes of long-term immobilization (casting).

##### 4.1.4.2 Dispensing Bridging Medication

*dispense, provide for sale, or sell, incidental to the practice of the paramedic profession, a Schedule 1 drug or Schedule 2 drug within the meaning of the Pharmacy and Drug Act.*

Despite that the above restricted activity as it appears in the **Paramedics** Profession Regulation (PPR) authorizes Primary Care Paramedics to perform the activity, Advanced Care Paramedics are the only designation regulated by the College who are permitted to dispense medication at this time.

Additionally, despite that the restricted activity as it appears in the **PPR** gives authority to provide medication for sale or sell, the Alberta College of Paramedics does not authorize the sale or sell of medication. For the purposes of this Standard, dispensing is limited to the purpose of bridging medication delivery in specific circumstances to provide flexibility to meet immediate patient needs.

The College expects all Advanced Care Paramedics who engage in the restricted activity of dispensing medications do so in accordance with the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics, as well as ensuring they are practicing in accordance with their employer's practice setting policies and procedures.

1. A regulated member must not prescribe, sell, or provide for sale medications.
2. Advanced Care Paramedics who are engaging in the practice of dispensing for the purposes of bridging medication must have successfully completed a College-approved training program and demonstrate competency in this restricted activity.

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<sup>4</sup> Review Enhanced Parameters section 4.1.4.4 Ultrasound

3. Advanced Care Paramedics who are authorized to dispense will have the “Dispense for the Purposes of Bridging Medication” endorsement on their practice permit.
4. Dispensing within the context of paramedic practice is limited to the purpose of bridging medication delivery in specific circumstances to provide flexibility to ensure patients receive timely access to medication.
5. Dispensing must only occur in the case of an existing prescription for a patient who is already under the care of another healthcare professional who is authorized to prescribe (e.g., physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, psychiatrist, pharmacist).
6. Dispensing must be carried out in compliance with employer approved protocols and in consultation with the original prescribing healthcare professional, when possible.
7. Medications authorized for dispensing are limited to Schedule 1 drug or Schedule 2 drugs within the meaning of the Pharmacy and Drug Act and those authorized through an exemption under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.
8. Medications dispensed for the purposes of bridging may only be provided for up to a 72-hour supply, unless explicitly stated or requested differently by the original prescriber.
9. When dispensing a medication, Advanced Care Paramedics must:
  - a) Verify the identity of the patient.
  - b) Consider the appropriateness of the medication for the patient.
  - c) Ensure employer dispensing policies and procedures are followed.
  - d) Ensure medications are dispensed in a child-proof container, except where inappropriate for the patient.
  - e) Correctly label the medication package by including:
    - i. patient name,
    - ii. medication name, dosage, concentration, and route,
    - iii. prescriber’s name and designation,
    - iv. directions for use,
    - v. quantity dispensed,
    - vi. date dispensed,
    - vii. drug identification number, if appropriate
    - viii. Advanced Care Paramedic’s initials and Advanced Care Paramedic’s employer name and phone number; and
    - ix. expiry date, when appropriate.
  - f) Document the dispensing in the patient record including the name and dosage of the medication and the quantity dispensed.
  - g) Inform and educate the patient and/or caregivers about the medication being dispensed, including appropriate storage, handling, usage, dosage, and route

#### **4.1.4.3 Administer a Vaccine**

*to administer a vaccine*

A Primary Care Paramedic may administer a seasonal influenza vaccine provided they have submitted proof of College-approved training and secured an endorsement on their practice permit to administer a

vaccine. Considerations may be made for vaccines specifically designed to address a public health emergency in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, or by an order issued by the CMOH.

Advanced Care Paramedics are the only regulated members of the College who are authorized to administer any vaccine, providing the Advanced Care Paramedic has received approved education and training, and for which they possess the required knowledge, skills, and judgement.

A regulated member must ensure the patient is fit/eligible for the vaccine being administered. When administering a vaccine, a regulated member must:

1. Obtain informed consent from the patient/patient's alternate decision-maker.
2. Ensure the patient is at least five years old.
3. Be satisfied that legislative and regulatory requirements related to the storage, handling and transporting of vaccines (e.g., cold chain) have been followed.
4. Document the administration in the patient record in accordance with immunization legislation and regulation.
5. Conduct appropriate follow up monitoring.
6. Manage and report adverse events.
7. Provide relevant information to other regulated healthcare professionals and provincial health agencies as appropriate.
8. Report refusals of vaccination as defined in regulation.

#### **4.1.4.4 Ultrasound**

*to order or apply non-ionizing radiation in ultrasound imaging, other than any application of ultrasound to a fetus;*

Advanced Care Paramedics are the only regulated members of the College who are authorized to apply non-ionizing radiation in ultrasound imaging. The paramedic role in performing ultrasound imaging consists of performing point-of-care testing or focused assessment with sonography in trauma.

An Advanced Care Paramedic may perform ultrasound imaging provided they have submitted proof of College- approved training and secured an endorsement on their practice permit to perform ultrasound.

1. An Advanced Care Paramedic must carry out care in collaboration with employer approved protocols and in consultation with other regulated healthcare professionals, where appropriate.
2. Advanced Care Paramedics must not apply non-ionizing radiation in ultrasound imaging for the purpose of fetal assessment.