

PRIMARY CARE PARAMEDIC PROGRAM

PMA CONTINUES TO ANSWER THE NEEDS OF PRACTITIONERS WITH THE
PRIMARY CARE PARAMEDIC (PCP) PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Professional Medical Associates' Primary Care Paramedic Program is designed to address the needs of ambulance and fire personnel responding to the scene of a medical emergency. The Primary Care Paramedic (PCP) program maintains approval by the Alberta College of Paramedics. The course was developed as a completer course from the Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) level and aligns with the National Occupational Competency Profile for paramedic professionals. The curriculum emphasizes patient assessment, focusing on strategies for evaluating specific body systems rather than relying on rote memorization. It equips graduates with the ability to effectively interpret and integrate information.



MAJOR SKILLS

The program is based on the scope of practice outlined in the **Health Professions Act, Schedule 18 Paramedic Profession Regulations** for the Primary Care Paramedic, the Paramedic Association of Canada's National Competencies for Paramedicine and the proposed scope of practice.

PREREQUISITES

Applicants must have completed an Emergency Medical Responder or First Medical Responder (FMR) program. Applications must include a personal resume, transcript from EMR or FMR program, high school transcripts or a GED, a CLEAR criminal record check with vulnerable sectors within 90 days, current BLS/CPR certification, and should include letters of recommendation from EMS and health related employers. Applicants must be 18 years of age with class 5 drivers license (non-GDL). Recommended academic requirements include English 30, Math 20 and Biology 30 or equivalent with Chemistry 10 and Physics 10. Competency for admission is evaluated through a combination of assessments, including completion of written examinations and a practical scenario at the EMR level, a personal interview, reference checks, MMI rotations, and aptitude assessments measuring mechanical and numerical reasoning, comprehension, spatial ability, and written and verbal knowledge.

PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- ✓ **Primary Care Paramedic Certificate**
- ✓ **Fundamentals of Airway Management Program**
- ✓ **Emergency Driving course with high-fidelity driving simulator**
- ✓ **Prehospital Trauma Life Support**
- ✓ **Basic Life Support**
- ✓ **Pediatric Emergency Assessment, Recognition and Stabilization (PEARS)**
- ✓ **Geriatrics for Emergency Medical Services (GEMS)**

PROGRAM LENGTH AND DELIVERY

The total length of the program is approximately 970 hours. This is comprised of 240 hours of self study and review, 200 hours of lectures and 250 hours of lab and practical time. In addition, ambulance and hospital practicums would total a minimum of 240 additional hours. Practicums are competency based so additional hours may be necessary for completion. The program spans approximately 10 to 11 months with the didactic portion following a 3 days on / 5 days off rotation. In-person sessions are held at either our St. Albert or Calgary campus, focusing on hands-on skills, simulations, and classroom instruction. During the 5-day off period, students are expected to complete self-directed learning, including assigned readings, independent study, and online assignments completed through our Moodle learning management system (LMS). Students are expected to commit a consistent number of hours during this time for successful progression. After completion of the didactic portion, students enter practicum, which include both clinical and field placements in supervised healthcare and EMS settings. These placements are scheduled based on availability and site coordination. Regular attendance and full participation are required throughout the program.

POST-GRADUATE AFFILIATION

Graduates are eligible to complete the Alberta Registration examination process and apply for registration with the Alberta College of Paramedics.

FEES AND EXPENSES

Cost of the Program (subject to change): \$13,450.00 Program fees cover all certification fees, required books, study manuals, uniforms, equipment, and learning assessments. Additional costs for travel and lodging may apply depending on clinical rotation placement.

PROGRAM COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

Students will be assessed through ongoing practical sessions, review quizzes, and midterm exams. The final evaluation consists of both written and theoretical components. The practical component assesses the student's ability to apply their knowledge, skills, and patient-care decision making in trauma and medical simulated clinical experiences following a scenario format. A combined average of 85% is required, with a minimum grade of 80% in each individual course.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Roles and Responsibilities of the PCP

EMS/Fire/Rescue liaison and development of systems
medical and legal responsibilities

Patient Transportation and Ambulance Operations

Medical Terminology for the PCP

Communications and Medical Documentation

medical documentation
verbal communication

Basic Vehicle Rescue

Scene Management

incident command - introduction of the medical sector

Triage and Special Situations

Lifting and Moving Patients

emergency patient moves
non-emergency patient moves
patient movement equipment

Structure and Function of the Human Body and

Introductory Pharmacology and Medical Administration

Introduction to Patient Assessment

primary survey and critical interventions
assessment and treatment - critical interventions
"key assessment phrases"
secondary survey

Assessment and management of shock

types of shock
level or degree of shock
management of shock state

Assessment of the Integument

structure and functions of the integument
skin color, temperature and condition

Assessment of the Head and Neck

assessment clues for assessment and management
inspection and palpation

Assessment of the Thorax and Thoracic disorders

assessment and overview of the respiratory system
basic management of the respiratory system
assessment and overview of the cardiovascular system
management of the cardiovascular system
4 and 12 lead electrocardiography

Assessment and management of the GI/GU system

overview of anatomy and physiology of GI/GU system
system assessment - gastrointestinal and genitourinary system

Assessment and management of the Nervous System

system assessment - assessment of the CNS
potential cause of altered level of consciousness
psychiatric patient management
unconscious emergencies

Assessment and management of the Endocrine System

anatomy and physiology of the endocrine system
endocrine disorders

Assessment and management of the Immune System

anatomy and physiology of the Immune System
Immune disorders

Prehospital Trauma Management

soft tissue injuries
internal organ injuries
injuries to the axial skeleton
injuries to the appendicular skeleton

Environmental Emergencies

heat injuries
management of the hyperthermic patient
cold injuries
management of the hypothermic patient
inhalation injuries and burns

Emergency Prehospital Emergencies

anatomy of pregnancy
management of normal delivery
management of abnormal delivery
care for the mother and baby after delivery
recognition of depressed infant and basic resuscitation

Special Patients

age as a special consideration
physically challenged patients
alcohol and drug abuse

Emotional and Psychiatric emergencies

Hospital Practicum

Ambulance Practicum

For more information, please contact the office, or visit our website at www.promedics.org

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