



# HEALTH CAREER OPTIONS GUIDE

for internationally educated health professionals

## Paramedic

This profession is also known as:

- advanced care paramedic
- ambulance attendant
- critical care paramedic
- emergency medical attendant (EMA)
- emergency medical technician (EMT)
- emergency medical technician, paramedic
- emergency medical technologist - paramedic (EMT-P)
- paramedic
- primary care paramedic
- supervisor, ambulance services



### What is a paramedic?

Paramedics provide medical assistance and care in the community to victims with injuries or medical illnesses. They may transport the victims to hospitals or other medical facilities for further medical care. There are 4 levels of practitioners and the services they offer depend of their level of training. The levels are:

- emergency medical responders
- emergency medical technician/primary care paramedic
- advanced care paramedic
- emergency medical technologist-paramedic critical care paramedic

### What are the main duties of a paramedic?

Paramedics perform some or all of the following duties:

Assess the extent of injuries or medical illnesses 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

- Administer pre-hospital emergency care to patients such as oxygen therapy, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), spinal immobilization, bandaging and splinting
- Establish and maintain intravenous treatment (IV), apply adjunctive equipment for ventilation and circulation complications, administer medications and provide other advanced emergency treatment to patients

- Transport patients by air, land or water to hospital or other medical facility for further medical care
- Collaborate with ambulance dispatch centers, hospital staff, police, firefighters and family members to ensure relevant information is collected and proper treatment is administered
- Document and record nature of injuries and illnesses and treatment provided
- Assist hospital personnel with provision of medical treatment, if necessary
- Maintain ambulances and emergency care equipment and supplies
- May train and supervise other workers in this unit group
- May assist with triage of emergency patients.



### What personal characteristics or desired traits should I have for this profession?

To work in this challenging profession:

- you must have a high level of physical strength and stamina to work with patients of all sizes and abilities in all weather conditions
- you must show emotional strength, empathy and patience because you will be involved in highly stressful situations where you must make accurate, rapid decisions that can affect the health of your patient
- you must have good coping strategies to monitor your own health and emotional wellbeing.

### Where do Paramedics Work?

As a paramedic, you may be employed by private ambulance services, hospitals, fire departments, government departments and agencies, manufacturing firms, mining companies and other private sector establishments.

### What typical work conditions should I expect?

Your workday will vary greatly by the workload and location. A typical day could be a 12 hour shift but off duty paramedics may be called to respond to emergency situations as necessary. Paramedics work in all weather conditions, with patients of all ages, abilities and disabilities.

### What qualifications do I need?

Completion of a one- to three-year college, hospital-based or other recognized paramedical or emergency medical technology program is required.

Licensing by a regulatory body is required in all provinces.

Those operating emergency vehicles require an appropriate class of driver's licence.

### What communication skills do I need?

You need effective communication skills to interact with patients, family members, health care providers, and other emergency services including fire and police agencies.

You must communicate clearly, concisely, concretely, correctly, coherently, completely and courteously.

For a full list of the essential skills you may need for this profession, see  
[http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/es\\_view\\_profile-eng.do?prof\\_id=278&lang=eng](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/es_view_profile-eng.do?prof_id=278&lang=eng)

### What is the wage for this work?

Average Canadian hourly wage Low \$18.78 Medium \$29.50 High \$41.70

Ref: [http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/LMI\\_report\\_bynoc.do?noc=3234&reportOption=wage](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/LMI_report_bynoc.do?noc=3234&reportOption=wage)

### Career Outlook

[http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/LMI\\_report\\_bynoc.do?noc=3234&reportOption=outlook](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/LMI_report_bynoc.do?noc=3234&reportOption=outlook)

### Are there any opportunities for advancement?

You may advance to a supervisory or administrative position with experience and continuing education.

### Learn more about paramedics in Canada by viewing these sites.

National Occupation Code 3234

The government of Canada has given a code to each occupation/profession. Use this code to learn more about paramedics through government sites.

<http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/English/NOC/2011/QuickSearch.aspx?val65=3234>

Self Assessment Readiness Tool for Paramedic™ View this tool to learn about the knowledge and skills you require to practice this profession in Canada.

[www.assesshealthcareers.ca](http://www.assesshealthcareers.ca)

Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators

<http://www.copr.ca/>

### References:

Outline from [CSMLS webpage](#), Accessed 3/25/2016

Government of Canada, [NOC](#)

Government of Canada, [Job Bank](#)

[http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/job\\_search\\_results.do?searchstring=paramedics&action=Search](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/job_search_results.do?searchstring=paramedics&action=Search)

Careers NS

<https://careers.novascotia.ca/occupation/170>