
The Paramedics Act

SASKATCHEWAN COLLEGE OF PARAMEDICS — REGULATORY BYLAWS

The following are the regulatory bylaws for the Saskatchewan College of Paramedics:

Membership

1 Categories, Eligibility and Privileges of Membership

- (1) There shall be the following categories of membership:
 - (a) Practicing membership;
 - (b) Non-practicing membership; and
 - (c) Life membership.
- (2) Practicing Membership
 - (a) A person is eligible to be registered as a practicing member if the person:
 - (i) is eligible to receive a full or restricted license in accordance with section 4 of these bylaws; and
 - (ii) completes the prescribed forms and submits the fees set by the college.
 - (b) Practicing members may:
 - (i) practice in accordance with the full or restricted license issued to the member;
 - (ii) vote at all annual or special meetings of the college;
 - (iii) be elected to council or appointed to college committees; and
 - (iv) receive the publications of the college.
- (3) Non-Practicing Membership
 - (a) A person is eligible to be registered as a non-practicing member if the person:
 - (i) is eligible for initial registration as a member in accordance with section 2 but does not meet the requirements for a full or restricted license; or
 - (ii) is eligible for initial registration as a member but voluntarily chooses not to practice as a member in Saskatchewan; and
 - (iii) is not currently practicing as a member in Saskatchewan; and
 - (iv) completes the prescribed forms and submits the fees set by the college.
 - (b) A person can remain a non-practicing member for up to five (5) years before membership is reviewed or renewed subject to the approval of council.
 - (c) Non-Practicing members may:
 - (i) attend all annual or special meetings of the college but not vote;
 - (ii) be elected to council or appointed to college committees; and
 - (iii) receive the publications of the college.
- (4) Life Membership
 - (a) Life membership may be granted by council to a former member who:
 - (i) is not currently eligible for a full or restricted license; and
 - (ii) has made an outstanding contribution to the profession in Saskatchewan.
 - (b) A member with a life membership may
 - (i) receive the publications of the college;
 - (ii) attend all annual or special meetings of the college but not vote;
 - (iii) not be able to participate in any committees or council.

Registration

2 Initial Registration as a Member

- (1) A person applying for initial registration as a member must:
 - (a) complete the prescribed application forms;
 - (b) pay the fees set by the college;
 - (c) have successfully completed one of the following education programs:
 - (i) in the case of registration as an emergency medical responder (EMR), a Canadian Medical Association accredited emergency medical responder program approved by council or a program deemed equivalent by council effective January 1, 2009;
 - (ii) in the case of registration as an emergency medical technician (EMT), a Canadian Medical Association accredited emergency medical technician or primary care paramedic applied certificate program approved by council or a program deemed equivalent by council;
 - (iii) in the case of registration as an emergency medical technician-advanced (EMT-A), a Canadian Medical Association accredited emergency medical technician-advanced or intermediate care paramedic applied certificate program approved by council or a program deemed equivalent by council; or
 - (iv) in the case of registration as an emergency medical technician-paramedic (EMT-P), a Canadian Medical Association accredited emergency medical technician-paramedic or advanced care paramedic diploma program approved by council or a program deemed equivalent by council;
 - (d) submit the results of a criminal record check;
 - (e) meet the English language fluency requirement set by council; and
 - (f) in the case of a person who was previously registered in another jurisdiction, proof of good standing in that jurisdiction.
- (2) A person who was registered in another Canadian jurisdiction, immediately prior to application for initial registration, with qualifications deemed by council to be equivalent to those stated in clause 2(1)(c) may be registered upon proof of meeting the requirements of clause 2(1)(c)(i), (ii), (iii) or (iv).
- (3) A person applying for registration as a practicing member, in addition to meeting requirements of subsection (1), shall:
 - (a) provide evidence of having successfully completed the following training programs within the two years prior to initial application:
 - (i) in the case of registration as an emergency medical responder (EMR), a Basic Life Support Health Care Provider – “C” Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada program or equivalent program in Basic Life Support – “C”;
 - (ii) in the case of registration as an emergency medical technician (EMT):
 - A. the program specified in clause (3)(a)(i); and
 - B. an external defibrillation program acceptable to council; and
 - C. the international trauma life support program or equivalent deemed acceptable to council.
 - (iii) in the case of registration as an emergency medical technician-advanced (EMT-A):
 - A. the programs specified in clause (3)(a)(ii); and
 - B. an advanced skills module established by the college for this level of practice, or a program deemed by council to be equivalent.
 - (iv) in the case of registration as an emergency medical technician-paramedic (EMT-P):
 - A. the programs referred to in clause (3)(a)(iii);
 - B. an advanced skills module established by the college for this level of practice, or a program deemed by council to be equivalent; and

- C. the advanced cardiac life support program or equivalent deemed acceptable to council; and
 - D. the pediatric advanced life support program or equivalent deemed acceptable to council.
- (b) provide evidence of successful completion of the licensing examination approved by council or evidence of having applied to take the examination within 60 days of application for initial registration.
- (i) A person will be limited to 3 attempts at the licensing examination and a minimum 15 days between attempts as per examination schedule established by council; or
 - (ii) Where a person can demonstrate that the content of the licensing examination was completed as part of the educational program completed for initial registration or through further education, the council may waive the requirement that the person complete the examination.

3 Titles

A person who is eligible to be registered as a practicing member can be registered with the following titles:

- (1) A member registered as an emergency medical responder shall use the title "emergency medical responder" or abbreviation "EMR";
- (2) A member registered as an emergency medical technician or primary care paramedic shall use the title "emergency medical technician" or the abbreviation "EMT";
- (3) A member registered as an emergency medical technician-advanced or intermediate care paramedic shall use the title "emergency medical technician-advanced" or abbreviation "EMT-A";
- (4) A member who is registered as an emergency medical technician-paramedic or advanced care paramedic shall use the title "emergency medical technician-paramedic", "paramedic" or the abbreviation "EMT-P";
- (5) A member who is employed within the firefighting sector and registered as an emergency medical technician may use the title "Fire-EMT";
- (6) A member who is employed within the firefighting sector and registered at the paramedic level may use the title "Fire-Medic".

Licensure

4 Licenses

- (1) A member may be issued a full license to practice as an EMR, EMT, EMT-A or EMT-P upon proof of:
- (a) completion of the application forms required by council;
 - (b) having paid the fees set by the college;
 - (c) for new members, having met the requirements for registration in section 2;
 - (d) for existing members,
 - (i) having met the continuing medical education requirements specified in section 7; and
 - (ii) whether the person has been convicted of a criminal offence since initial registration or the issuance of the previous license.
- (2) A member may be issued a restricted license to practice as an EMR, EMT, EMT-A or EMT-P if the member:
- (a) has applied for and is waiting to write the licensing examination as required by council; or
 - (b) has not met the full requirements for continuing medical education; or

- (c) is missing a component of the educational programs specified in section 2; and
- (d) produces a current criminal record check.
- (3) The licensure period shall be from January 1 to December 31.
- (4) The due date for license renewal is December 31.
- (5) For initial registration, a full license shall be valid from the date of issue until December 31 of that year.
- (6) A restricted license may be issued for a period of up to 6 months and may be renewed for one additional period upon request to council.
- (7) A member with a restricted license shall comply with any restrictions or conditions placed on the member's license. These may include, but not limited to:
 - (a) limitations on the provisions of patient care;
 - (b) provision of patient care under supervision;
 - (c) reducing license to a lower level of practicing membership; or
 - (d) other restrictions or conditions deemed appropriate by council.

5 Maintaining Eligibility as a Practicing Member

- (1) To maintain eligibility for a practicing membership, the member shall:
 - (a) in the one year period immediately preceding the registration year for which the membership is sought, provide evidence of having completed the following credits of continuing medical education specified for each membership in council approved activities:
 - (i) for EMT-P's, a minimum of 15 credits;
 - (ii) for EMT-A's, a minimum of 30 credits;
 - (iii) for EMT's, a minimum of 40 credits;
 - (iv) for EMR's, a minimum of 25 credits.
- AND
- (b) meet one of the following requirements:
 - (i) work in council approved patient care activities or related activities deemed equivalent by council within the one year period immediately preceding the registration year for which the membership is sought;
 - (ii) provide evidence of having been certified in those courses specified in subsection 2(3) which are applicable to the category of membership sought;
 - (iii) hold a practicing membership with a Canadian College or a regulatory body recognized by council while working in council approved patient care activities or related activities deemed equivalent by council within the previous two years.
- (2) A person who has not been licensed to practice in the two years prior to the registration year for which membership is sought and cannot meet the requirements of subsection (2) shall satisfactorily complete a re-entry education program approved by council.
 - (3) A person who has completed the requirements for initial registration and has graduated from the initial education program in the previous two years shall be exempt from meeting the continuing medical education requirement.

6 Reinstatement

- (1) Persons who have been expelled or suspended in accordance with the Act will have no membership privileges in the college during the period when the person is expelled or suspended.
- (2) Reinstatement shall be in accordance with section 40 of the Act.

(3) A person whose licensure has been revoked by council, or has automatically ceased by reason of a deficiency in continuing education credits or non-payment of annual license fees may make application to be reinstated by submitting the application form, duly completed and accompanied by:

- (a) documentation of having met the requirements for registration;
- (b) the applicable reinstatement fee as determined by council;
- (c) the applicable annual license fee; and
- (d) proof of continuing education credit hours satisfactory to council, according to the college policy.

(4) Upon an application for reinstatement being submitted, council shall review the evidence submitted and exercise its discretion in the best interest of the public and may impose or waive conditions for reinstatement including examinations, payment of fees and penalties for late payment of fees.

General

7 Continuing Medical Education

(1) Practicing members are required to obtain continuing medical education credits approved by council as outlined in clause 5(1)(a), annually effective January 1, 2009.

(2) Continuing medical education activities shall be in accordance with the policies approved by council.

(3) A person who is required to complete the Advanced Skills Module shall provide documentation of completion that includes a signature of a physician recognized as a medical advisor for a health region.

8 Statutory Committees

The statutory committees of the college are Professional Conduct Committee and Discipline Committee.

(1) Professional Conduct Committee

- (a) The professional conduct committee shall consist of five people appointed by council.
- (b) Due to membership diversity council will attempt to ensure broad representation when appointing committee members.
- (c) The chair of the professional conduct committee shall be determined by council.
- (d) The professional conduct committee shall notify, in writing, the member who is the subject of the complaint or allegation that a complaint has been received and ask for a written response within 30 days.
- (e) The professional conduct committee may proceed with an investigation if the member fails to submit the written response pursuant to subsection (d).
- (f) The professional conduct committee shall notify, in writing, the person who made the report or allegation that the report will be reviewed.
- (g) The professional conduct committee shall take appropriate action including:
 - (i) receiving and reviewing complaints brought against any member;
 - (ii) resolving the matter with the consent of the complainant and the member who is the subject of the investigation;
 - (iii) requesting any person to answer any questions and to produce any records, notes, books, papers or other documents or things in the person's possession or under their control that are or may be relevant to the report or allegation being investigated;

- (iv) with the consent of the person under clause (iii) producing, copying and keeping copies of any of the documents or evidence produced under clause (iii); and
 - (v) holding in confidence all documentation and information received.
- (2) Discipline Committee
- (a) The discipline committee shall consist of five people appointed by council, one of whom shall be a public representative.
 - (b) Due to membership diversity council will attempt to ensure broad representation when appointing committee members.
 - (c) The chair of the discipline committee shall be determined by council.
 - (d) The duties of the discipline committee shall be:
 - (i) to review the reports of the professional conduct committee;
 - (ii) to conduct hearings to review the complaints set out in the reports of the professional conduct committee;
 - (iii) to determine whether the member whose conduct is the subject of a report is guilty of professional misconduct, professional incompetence or both; and
 - (iv) to provide a written decision to council respecting the committee's decision and order where the member is found guilty.

9 Conflict of Interest

- (1) A conflict of interest may involve:
 - (a) elected members of council;
 - (b) members appointed to statutory, standing or ad hoc committees; and
 - (c) employees of the college.
- (2) A conflict of interest exists when a member has personal or organizational interests in a decision or outcome that may have or may be perceived to have personal benefit in a decision. A conflict of interest may include but is not limited to the following:
 - (a) where the member is involved in the investigation or discipline process of another member who may be related to that member;
 - (b) where the member, the member's family, employees of the college, partner or associate might personally or financially benefit from decisions or information gained from involvement on council or committees;
 - (c) where the member is involved in determining or reviewing the registration or licensing eligibility of other members and the member is related to that member; and
 - (d) where the member is involved in negotiating wages or employment contracts for college staff that may be related to that member.
- (3) Members serving on council or committees shall declare a conflict of interest in matters under consideration or in decisions taken in which they have a conflict of interest.
- (4) It shall be at the discretion of the chair of council or the committee that the member is involved with to determine if the member should absent himself or herself during any discussion, refrain from participating in a decision or resign from the committee.

10 Standards of Conduct

Every member shall comply with the "Code of Professional Conduct" listed as Appendix A.

Appendix A – Code of Professional Conduct

The primary aim of the Saskatchewan College of Paramedics is to ensure the members provide competent, safe and ethical services in the public's interest in the Province of Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan College of Paramedics has developed this Code of Professional Conduct to define the professional standards for members of the College. The College will ensure ongoing review and modifications to this Code of Professional Conduct to reflect the ever-changing role of members of the Saskatchewan College of Paramedics.

Principles of Ethical Behavior for All Members

1. The well being of the patient must be the primary concern.
2. Honour the profession.
3. Recognize one's limitations and the skills of others in the care and treatment of the patient to work as a team.
4. Teach and be taught; engage in life long learning.
5. Remember that integrity and professional ability should be the member's best advertisement.
6. Disclose any conflict of interest whether that is personal or financial.
7. Respect the confidentiality of issues.

Responsibilities to the Patient

All members shall:

1. provide care based on human need with respect for human dignity;
2. never exploit any patient for personal advantage;
3. provide patient care within the member's ability, seeking consultation where necessary, including physical comfort and spiritual and psychosocial support even when a cure is no longer available;
4. report any activity deemed non-ethical or illegal to the appropriate authorities;
5. protect and maintain the patient's safety, dignity and privacy;
6. once having accepted responsibility for a patient or the provision of patient care, continue to provide care until it is no longer required or care is being provided by an appropriate health care provider;
7. hold in confidence all personal information entrusted to the member in the health care setting respecting the patient unless failure to disclose would endanger the patient or a third party or the disclosure is required by law;
8. in providing medical service, never discriminate against any patient on such grounds as age, gender, marital status, medical condition, national or ethnic origin, physical or mental disability, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status (this does not abrogate the right to refuse for legitimate reasons);
9. provide the patient with the information they need to make informed decisions about their medical care, and answer their questions to the best of the member's ability;
10. make every effort to communicate with the patient in such a way that the information exchange is understood;
11. respect the right of a competent patient to accept or reject any medical care recommended;
12. be considerate of the patient's family and significant others and cooperate with them in the patient's interest.

Responsibilities to the Profession

All members must:

1. be familiar with current legislation and practice within the limitations defined in the member's scope of practice;
2. behave in a way beyond reproach and report any incompetent, illegal or unethical conduct by colleagues or other health care personnel to the appropriate authorities;
3. conduct and present oneself in such a manner so as to encourage and merit the respect of the public for members of the profession;
4. avoid impugning the reputation of any colleague;
5. recognize that self-regulation of the profession is a privilege and that each practitioner has a continuing responsibility to merit the retention of this privilege;
6. assume responsibility for personal and professional development;
7. never use the member's profession, knowledge or skills for unethical gain;
8. strive to improve the professional standards in the member's community and accept a share of the profession's responsibility to society in matters relating to the health and safety of the public, health education and legislation affecting the health or well-being of the community;
9. observe the rules of professional conduct set out in the "Code" in the spirit, as well as in the letter;
10. work with students of their profession while in the clinical setting to provide a scholarly education in a non-threatening helpful manner without misleading or false information.

Certified to be a true copy of the regulatory bylaws approved by the council of the Saskatchewan College of Paramedics.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

Dale Backlin, President,
Saskatchewan College of Paramedics.
Date: May 1, 2008

APPROVED BY:

Honourable Don McMorris,
Minister of Health.
Date: May 21, 2008