



News Release – June 9, 2010

Amendments to *Regulatory Bylaws* from 2009 AGM Approved

Brent Stewart, President of the Saskatchewan College of Paramedics, announced today that *The Regulatory Bylaws Pursuant to the Paramedics Act* had been amended to reflect resolutions passed at the 2009 Annual General Meeting. The amendments were published in the *Saskatchewan Gazette* on Friday, June 4th, 2010 (page 1219).

The approval of the Minister of Health for these amendments means that, effective immediately, our members can call themselves “paramedics”, and distinguish their level of skill through the terms “primary”, “intermediate” and “advanced” paramedics. Previously members had to use the term “emergency medical technician”, a term which will continue to be used on the member’s licence.

“The public already call us paramedics,” said Stewart. “This will allow us to use a title well understood by the public. Many other provinces are using the “paramedic” titles, and this change brings Saskatchewan in line with the majority.”

The chart below shows the current titles and the corresponding newly approved titles which members may use.

Current Titles in Use (and continuing to be used)	Newly Approved Titles (which may also be used)
Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic (EMT-P)	Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP)
Emergency Medical Technician – Advanced (EMT-A)	Intermediate Care Paramedic (ICP)
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	Primary Care Paramedic (PCP)
Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)	Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)

A significant amendment to the bylaws makes it possible for certifications such as ACLS, ITLS Advanced and PALS or PEPP Advanced to be used to verify Advanced Life Support Skills. Effective for the 2012 licensure (based on Continuing Medical Education taken in 2011), this replaces the requirement to have Medical Advisors or their authorized delegates assess and sign off the ALS skills of members every other year.

“Beginning in 2011, we will replace an inefficient, bureaucratic process of signing off each individual skill for each individual practitioner with a more efficient process which relies on quality programs which do ensure proficiency prior to certification,” said Stewart. “These are internationally recognized programs that are established and overseen by physicians with appropriate specializations, and taught by instructors who are appropriately trained and qualified. We believe this system will provide more consistency in the assessment as every

course must meet the same standards established by the certifying organization. In this way the College can fulfill its mandate to assure the public that our members have the required competencies.”

The amendments include some rewording of the requirements for EMR training. Stewart underscored that this is simply ensuring the appropriate reference in the bylaws and represents no change in the requirements which were implemented in 2009. The original bylaws referred to CMA accreditation of the EMR training program and there is no such accreditation available. The revised bylaw identifies the national Occupational Competencies Profile as the standard for EMRs. This is the standard that has been in place since 2009.

Other amendments to the bylaws include:

- Clarifying that the due date for licence renewal is December 1st each year;
- Clarifying what is required of someone who has not been licensed to practice for two or more years in order to regain his/her licence to practice;
- Adding requirements for members to retain their records of continuing medical education for five years and make them available to the college for audit purposes;
- Clarifying that failure to provide true and complete information to the college on request may constitute professional misconduct.

All these amendments were discussed and approved at the AGM in April of 2009 in Kenaston, Saskatchewan. Members recently attended the 2010 AGM in Meadow Lake and approved some additional amendments which must now be presented to the government for approval.

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