

DECEMBER 2, 2020

College of Paramedics of Manitoba CONTACT INFORMATION

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TRISH BERGAL

Congratulatory messages were prominent yesterday, as December 1, 2020 was the day the College regulations officially came into force. Congratulations paramedics! This is a proud moment for the profession and shows the value that the public has in your service. College staff look forward to serving the public in a manner that upholds high standards as a regulatory body.

The College would also like to offer thanks and appreciation to the leadership and staff of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Branch of Manitoba Health Seniors and Active Living. The history of paramedic licensing in Manitoba depicts an interesting journey. Thank you for helping evolve the profession from a regulatory perspective and for the hours spent on the facilitation of the transfer of function to the College of Paramedics of Manitoba.

As a new regulatory college, we are now completely responsible for all aspects of our mandate. Many of these functions were similar under the EMS Branch but like all new organizations we need to ensure all our processes reflect our Vision Mission and Values and honor the RHPA and the College regulations. All our work and decisions require time spent in deep thought and reflection about the guidance we provide to paramedics and the information we share with the public.

Lastly, I would like to share once again some key messages from prior newsletters. As professionals it is vitally important for each of you to familiarize with your obligations under the RHPA and the College regulations. In addition, we all need to be effective managers of information. The best source of truth for paramedics, as practitioners, is the information on the College website. Please read the information under each tab and familiarize yourself with the content. Please use the Search function on the top right-hand section of the website if you are not able to find the item you are looking for. We welcome all inquiries you may have: info@collegeparamb.ca.

COVID-19 Response

The College is working closely with Shared Health Manitoba and various government departments related to the COVID-19 pandemic. As many of you are aware, paramedics are providing important care in a time of rapid response and great need. There are two items to bring to your attention at this time from a regulatory perspective:

Nasopharyngeal Swabbing – Nasopharyngeal swabbing is considered a reserved act that is not authorized for paramedics. Reserved Act 4a states that paramedics may: insert or remove an instrument or device beyond the point in the nasal passages where they normally narrow for the purpose of airway management. Therefore, according to the reserved acts, paramedics are not permitted to independently perform nasopharyngeal swabbing as this is not a procedure related to airway management. Prior to the College regulation coming into force paramedics were completing nasopharyngeal swabbing under a Medical Delegation and as part of a safe work procedure. With the College of Paramedics of Manitoba General Regulation now coming into force on December 1, 2020, paramedics are no longer able to accept Medical Delegations for a group of patients, except for standing orders for medication administration. Therefore, a special Ministerial Order has been passed by government and now allows paramedics trained at the PCP, ACP, CCP levels to complete nasopharyngeal swabbing independently, following testing site policy and procedure. In addition, EMRs have been added to the Ministerial Order and may enroll in the micro-credentialing program for nasopharyngeal swabbing and once they have completed the program they are able to apply for positions at the testing sites. The ministerial order is found [here](#). More information on the RRC micro-credentialing program is found at: <https://www.rrc.ca/part-time/covid-sample-collection/>

Administration of Vaccinations – Provincial planning is now underway to for the pending COVID-19 Vaccination. The College is working with various stakeholder groups involved in the planning and providing direction on how paramedics can be used to administer vaccinations in this next important phase of the pandemic.

The College would like to acknowledge the efforts of all EMRs and Paramedics who are working extremely hard during this concerning time. We believe the public values your roles and contributions.

Transition Transfer Applications

As of December 2, 2020, 804 Applications have been submitted and 200 have been approved. A few special notes regarding the registration period:

- If you have not transitioned to the College your license with MHSAL is in effect until January 2021. The deadline for applications is January 4, 2021.
- Once your application and certificate of practice are approved your MHSAL license becomes null and void and your certificate of practice is your evidence of the right to practice in Manitoba
- When applications are approved you will receive an email and then you can log in via the Registrant portal and print invoices or download your certificate of practice
- A notation for an ICP Verification requires a special step that we were not aware of. This will be corrected as soon as possible
- Due to high volumes of emails, phone calls and applications submitted we do have a bit of a que. Staff are also learning to use and become proficient with our new software and we are working closely with the vendor to resolve small bugs or receive further instruction. No amount of testing can prepare for going live with software and your understanding is appreciated.
- Please, please, please, follow the Self-Service Guide and watch the video! <https://collegeparamb.ca/2020/11/licensing-registration-changes/>
- Ask a paramedic friend for help!
- Please read the declaration questions carefully. Many are incorrectly answering yes to this Question: Are you currently or have you ever been registered or held a license with any health profession regulator in Canada (**excluding** Manitoba Health Emergency Medical Services Branch) or elsewhere? If you are licensed with MHSAL but not with any other regulator, please select “No” to this question. If you answer “Yes” to this question and have been or are licensed with another regulator then you need to do the following: 1) if the other regulator is a paramedic regulator then download the COPR Labor Mobility form: <https://collegeparamb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Fillable-PDF-Canadian-Paramedic-Labour-Mobility-Form-1.pdf>, complete

- section A and send the form to the regulator to complete. They will return the form to the College; 2) if the other regulator is another regulated health profession in Manitoba or in another province please contact that regulator and inquire as to their process for providing a verification that you are in good standing

Council Meetings

In accordance with the requirements in the RHPA, Council meetings are open to the public. Information on how to attend a Council meeting is found on the College website: <https://collegeparamb.ca/about/council/meeting-highlights/>

Special Meeting of Registrants/Members

A Special Meeting of College registrants/members will be held on February 2, 2020. Further meeting details will be posted on the College website as soon as possible. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on and pass the College Bylaws. The most current version of the College Bylaws are posted on the College website at <https://collegeparamb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CPMB-Bylaws-November-27-2020-final.pdf>

Program of Continuing Competency

The program of continuing competency is changing significantly. All registrants must meet the same requirements. All registrants are asked to familiarize themselves with the program requirements on the College Website: <https://collegeparamb.ca/continuing-competency/program-for-continuing-competency/>

Regulatory Activity

In between approving the Transition Transfer Applications our team is working on the following initiatives:

- Approving applications for paramedics moving to Manitoba; approving application for new graduates; approving applications for paramedic students to write provincial or national examinations
- Hosting the first EMR exam under the authority of the College on December 17, 2020.

- Reviewing and approving and communicating the COPR exam results for the PCP and ACP candidates that wrote the exam in November 2020 – 93 exam writers in total!
- Preparing for the Council meeting on December 16, 2020
- Completing the file transition project which includes scanning information from the EMS (MHSAL) paper-based files into our regulatory software
- Participating in a COPR working group related to the development of a national EMR examination