

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 9, 2021

CLIFF: 1063453

File: 195-20

To: All BCEHS Staff and Ambulance Paramedics of British Columbia – CUPE 873 Members

Re: Announced changes in scope of practice for paramedics, emergency medical responders, and first responders

On Friday, December 3, 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that the scopes of practice for out-of-hospital providers would be expanding in response to recommendations made by various stakeholders in out-of-hospital care in British Columbia. The announcement marks the beginning of an exciting next step, and is intended to support paramedics, emergency medical responders, and first responders in delivering safe, effective, and high-quality care to British Columbians.

We are awaiting the final detailed list of approved changes and processes to support the scope increases. When we receive that official confirmation and detail from the Ministry of Health and the Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board (EMALB), this list will represent a roadmap for practice development within our organization and allow BCEHS to establish priorities for implementation.

It is important to remember that expansion of regulatory scope of practice does not necessarily mean employers, including BCEHS, can immediately adjust the operational scopes of practice for their employees, nor does it represent approval for individual paramedics to begin working to the expanded scope of practice. Most expanded services require additional education and training to be provided, which may also include licensing endorsements. Paramedics are reminded that until this process is complete, the current legal and operational scopes of practice remain in effect for all license levels. This was also communicated to each license holder in the province through an EMALB communication released on December 9, 2021.

BCEHS will be working collaboratively with APBC – CUPE 873 through established committees and processes to review and determine operational needs, contractual implications, and to discuss and develop plans and budgets prior to developing an implementation strategy for the scope expansion. The final agreed strategy will include changes to clinical practice guidelines and clinical governance, as well as educational support to ensure these new skills and abilities are safely incorporated into practice.

The scope expansions represent new, exciting opportunities for paramedics and emergency medical responders at BCEHS. Implementation will be planned and communicated, as it requires the involvement of multiple stakeholders, both internal and external. We ask for

your patience and understanding as we work through the developments needed, and we commit to sharing more information as it becomes available and as our plans evolve.

Questions about the expansion of scopes of practice can be directed to Clinical and Medical Programs at clinicalpractice@bcehs.ca or info@apbc.ca.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Leanne Heppell
I/EVP & Chief Ambulance Officer
BC Emergency Health Services
Provincial Health Services Authority

Original signed by

Troy Clifford
Provincial President
Ambulance Paramedics of BC
CUPE Local 873

We are honoured to deliver care and services to communities around the province on the traditional, unceded and ancestral lands of many Indigenous Peoples.