

Membership Services Webcast



Paramedic Chiefs
of Canada

Chefs Paramédics
du Canada

2014 Awards of Excellence Recipients' Presentation



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[What Will We Be Discussing?](#)

Recipients' Presentation

Each year during the PCC annual conference the association recognizes peer-selected recipients of the Paramedic Chiefs of Canada Awards of Excellence. This award is granted to the most outstanding submission(s) from one of three categories:

- Quality Workplace Strategy
- Innovative Treatment or Technology
- Client Centred Initiative

The winners of the 2014 PCC Awards of Excellence were:

- Ryan Sneath of Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service for his work on early HIV testing and linkage to care (Client Centred Initiative)
- Chris Spearen of York Region Emergency Medical Services for his work on Expanding Paramedicine in the Community (Client Centred Initiative)

[Who will be Speaking?](#)

Ryan Sneath

Ryan has been working as a paramedic in Manitoba for the past 15 years, and currently works as the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service – Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Liaison, and Director of Community Paramedic Programs. He is a certified Advanced Care Paramedic, and completed a Baccalaureate degree in nursing in 2006 and currently holds a Registered Nursing license with the College of Registered Nurses. In 2012, Ryan received an Award of Excellence for a Client Centred initiative for the development of our Community Paramedic Program at the Main Street Project, and in 2014 he was recognized again with an Award of Excellence for the innovative use of technology in diagnosing vulnerable individuals with HIV.

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Chris Spearen

Chris Spearen is an Advanced Care Paramedic with York Region Emergency Medical Services and has over 19 years of experience as a Paramedic in Ontario. Chris is also a Registered Nurse, with a background in Emergency Nursing and holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree from Ryerson University. Currently, Chris is the Deputy Chief (A) of the Performance and Development Division of York Region EMS. Chris has had the opportunity to assist in the development of the Emergency Social Services Shelter Program and the Expanding Paramedicine in the Community clinical trial with York Region EMS.

[How Does this Session Relate to Advancing and Aligning Paramedicine in Canada and Your Service's Future?](#)

Early HIV Testing and Linkage to Care

Manitoba has documented some of the highest per-capita rates of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in Canada. Each year, there are approximately 80-120 newly diagnosed cases. The Public Health Agency of Canada estimates that 28% of HIV infections in Canada remain undiagnosed. HIV testing rates in Manitoba are low, and traditional strategies (i.e. STI Clinics) do not seem to be capturing those who are unlikely to specifically seek out sexual health services. These facts, combined with concerns regarding late diagnosis of HIV, prompted the Manitoba HIV Program to seek out innovative strategies to increase early HIV testing and linkage to care.

In 2013, the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) partnered with the Manitoba HIV Program to create an innovative initiative to test high risk individuals for HIV, link them into care, and retain them in care. This program leveraged the existing relationship that the WFPS Community Paramedic Program had developed at the Main Street Project (MSP); a downtown homeless shelter that houses some of the most vulnerable individuals within Winnipeg. Within the first year, paramedics administered 1205 HIV POCT, and identified three (3) new cases of HIV within the community. All three (3) of these patients were linked to care the same day as the diagnosis, and remained engaged in care as a result of the interdisciplinary approach. Furthermore four (4) residents of the MSP were re-engaged into care as a result of the established therapeutic relationship with the paramedics at the MSP. The paramedics provide direct observed therapy to ensure adherence to the prescribed medical treatments. The combined effort between Manitoba HIV and the WFPS is working toward an HIV free community.

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EPIC

Expanding Paramedicine in the Community (EPIC) is a randomized control trial using non-emergency expanded scope Community Paramedics to provide evidence based treatments during routine visits and in response to exacerbations for patients diagnosed with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Congestive Heart Failure and/or Diabetes Mellitus. Community Paramedics in EPIC provide care under the medical delegation of primary care physicians affiliated with the Health for All Family Health Team, Markham Family Health Team, Aurora-Newmarket Family Health Team and the Stouffville Medical Centre.

The objectives of EPIC are to evaluate whether Community Paramedics trained in chronic disease management, working under the medical delegation of a primary care physician, can decrease rates of hospitalization, EMS utilization, ED visits and hospital length of stay.

EPIC began in July of 2013 and currently has 280 patients enrolled in the trial. In addition to the quantitative data being collected in EPIC, a qualitative study is currently ongoing as well. The study portion of EPIC is scheduled to be complete by the end of November 2015.

The Principal Investigator for EPIC is Dr. Paul Hoogeveen and the Co-Principle investigator is Dr. Laurie Morrison; both are affiliated with Rescu at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, ON.

[When Will We be Online?](#)

Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Time: 10:00 a.m. PDT, 11:00 a.m. MDT, 12:00 CDT, 1:00 p.m. EDT, 2:00 p.m. ADT

[How to Connect with this National Session?](#)

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All you need to attend is a web connected PC and a telephone. If your group is meeting in a central location, please consider using a speakerphone and video projector so all attendees can view the presentation and participate in discussion.

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3. Follow the on-screen directions and enter your Name, Email Address, and the meeting Password: **emschiefs**. Press OK.
4. A WebEx Training Manager window may appear. Follow the on-screen instructions and install the WebEx software if necessary. This process may take several minutes.
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If you have any questions, please contact FirstWatch at (760) (760)658-9850 for Katelyn Gilligan.

For further information visit www.paramedicchiefs.ca