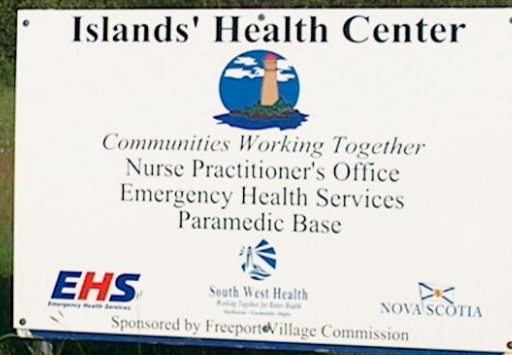


First Annual International Roundtable on  
Community Paramedicine and  
Rural Health Care Delivery

**EHS**  
Emergency Health Services  
AMBULANCE OPERATIONS  
MANAGEMENT

# Community Paramedic Program Programming and Rural Health Delivery

**A Nova Scotia  
Success Story**





First Annual International Roundtable on  
Community Paramedicine and  
Rural Health Care Delivery



# Province of Nova Scotia



First Annual International Roundtable on  
Community Paramedicine and  
Rural Health Care Delivery



**Population:**

**1240**

**Demographics:**

**50% over  
age of 65**

**Closest hospital:**

**1 hour**

**Closest regional  
hospital:**

**2 hours**



**Long and Brier  
Islands**



## Project Background

- A clinic without a doctor
- A community looking for answers to their healthcare needs
- An aging population with ever increasing healthcare requirements
- An ambulance operation in need of increased, standardized training and equipment
- Low volume of calls on the Islands approximately 1 call every 2.7 days





# Community Paramedic Program

- Program is developed for the inclusion all levels of Paramedics.
- All Primary Care Paramedic Programs within our catchment area provide IV Therapy in their curriculum. This provides an effective platform for the theory on phlebotomy's and IM injections.

**“Health Care Teams working together to serve the needs of the community.”**



# Development of the Program

- Provincial Medical Director developed and approved all medical policies and protocols
- A project coordinator was hired to develop the program curriculum as well as the associated learning materials. This individual also negotiated clinical practicum times with the Hospitals and Home Nursing Groups.
- In addition to this work, the project coordinator developed and implemented a Continuous Quality Control component for the program.
- Local medical oversight physician also assigned to the team
- All Paramedics including Supervisor and Regional Manager trained in CPP Curriculum.



# Program Curriculum

## Clinical Theory & Skills

- IV antibiotics
- Advanced wound care
- CHF assessment
- Phlebotomies
- Flu shots
- Blood pressure checks
- Urinalysis checks
- B12 administration
- Blood sugar monitoring

## Programs

- Fall assessment program
- Car seat installation clinics
- Adopt – a – patient program
- Flu shot Clinics
- First aid & CPR community courses
- Multi-agency training sessions
- Community health fair
- Safety programs



## Curriculum Schedule

- Program theory classroom 8 hours
- VON Field Practicum (Homecare Nursing) 8 hours
- Minimal 20 phlebotomies in Lab (competency based)
- Dressing change practicum with Clinic Nurse Practitioner 4 hours
- **Total hours 24 – 30 hours based on competency level.**
- Program Reference Manual, module based, has also been developed.





## Next Steps

- Quality and Learning Division program review
- Family Physician Office Rounds component
- Possible Future modules
  - Adult protections services
  - Addiction services



# The facts please, just the facts!

- Digby Hospital is the community hospital located 45 minutes from the ferry that leads to the islands
- Digby General Hospital has seen a 23% reduction of emergency room visits from the Island's communities.

