

**COLLEGE OF PARAMEDICS OF NOVA SCOTIA**  
**PARAMEDIC PRACTICE GUIDELINE**

**Practice During a Pandemic**

Pandemic's cause unusual, challenging and rapidly evolving circumstances in our health care system. All members of society, including Paramedics will be required to adapt.

Processes will change because of the fluidity created by a pandemic. There will be a need to regularly evaluate and analyse information related to the pandemic by Nova Scotia's Chief Medical Officer and other infectious disease experts, who will then help to guide the Government in developing processes that may impact a Paramedic's practice environment. It will be important for Paramedics to heed the advice of Nova Scotia's Chief Medical Officer and those who work in the infectious disease control environment as they provide the most scientifically available information to help guide the health care professionals practice during these times.

Additionally, it is important to recognize that a Paramedic's practice environment is managed by an employer, who is responsible for providing equipment, resources, and clinical practice guidelines applicable to their specific work environment.

The College of Paramedics of Nova Scotia (the College) recognizes that paramedics may need to depart from established procedures and typical practices during such extraordinary times. Paramedics must make decisions to do so based on an assessment of the patient and situation and use their best judgement to ensure they continue to provide safe, competent, ethical, and compassionate paramedical services.

Paramedics are always required to meet their standards of practice regardless of how their procedures and practices may evolve during a pandemic. The standards are broad and flexible which enable the Paramedic to meet them consistently even though how they meet them may change over the course of a pandemic.

If a Paramedic departs from established procedures and typical practices, they must consider:

- What other actions should they take to maintain the safety of the patient, others, and myself?
- What supports and resources do they (and maybe others) need?
- How will they continue to meet their standards of practice?
- How do they document this?
- How do they communicate this to others, and whom should they notify?

Paramedics must also consider the following:

- Departures from established procedures and typical practices are anticipated in a time of crisis however, they do not establish precedent practice post-pandemic.
- Paramedics are not expected to practice beyond the scope of practice of the profession, or their class of license.
- Complaints during, and/or because of the pandemic, will be addressed with full consideration of the circumstances in which paramedics are practising.