

Community paramedicine to support palliative care

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Journal:	Progress in Palliative Care
Abstract:	<p>Purpose - This paper describes community paramedicine (CP) and the potentiality of an expanded scope of practice to provide home-based palliative care.</p> <p>Design/methodology/approach - A rapid review was conducted to determine current scope of practice and geographical coverage of CP programming, as well as a broader literature search describing current roles.</p> <p>Discussion - An expanded scope of CP practice that provides palliative care has immense potential in alleviating health system burden while simultaneously improving patient health outcomes. Pilot CP palliative care programs in Alberta, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have demonstrated the benefits of community paramedics providing palliative care through reduced emergency department visits and improved patient satisfaction. Community paramedics are well equipped to provide high-quality palliative care earlier within the patient's disease trajectory and support the patient and caregiver through remote patient monitoring.</p>
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