

In anticipation of expanded paramedic scope of practice in Ontario, City of Greater Sudbury Paramedic Services and the North East LHIN have partnered to increase palliative education for paramedics in order to decrease ED presentations and improve end of life outcomes.

75% of Canadians prefer to die at home

70% of Canadians die in hospital

59% of patients in Greater Sudbury will have an ED visit within one month of their death

50% of these ED visits are facilitated by paramedics

PRESENT

Paramedics are trained to stabilize acute symptoms and transport to hospital

FUTURE

Enhanced clinical practice guidelines for paramedics will allow for collaborative pain and symptom management without transport to hospital

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Improved access to palliative care and patient and caregiver satisfaction with end of life journey
- Paramedics providing palliative support within an evolving profession as a respected health care team member
- Culture shift within paramedicine towards palliation as a “goal of care”
- Shared access to care plans and EMRs; partnerships between palliative care teams and paramedics
- Updated processes (including treat and release) for paramedics and dispatchers which reflect their expanded role

Paramedics Providing Palliative Care at Home

Arming paramedics with tools to participate in the palliative care approach improves end of life experiences for patients and families and reduces transports and admissions to the ED.



PARAMEDIC QUOTES

“The LEAP Paramedic training gave me the knowledge and tools to better meet the needs of my palliative patients”.

“We did not learn palliative care in college and often I felt helpless when responding to these call types”.

“Feeling that we are now becoming a part of the team providing palliative care is rewarding “.



Paramedics providing palliative care in the home implementation in Nova Scotia and PEI

Pallium develops LEAP Paramedic education

Funding partnership developed between the City of Greater Sudbury Paramedic Services and the North East LHIN to facilitate palliative education opportunities for paramedics

NE LHIN Palliative Care NPs led eight LEAP Paramedic courses, training over 140 local paramedics in the palliative approach

Six Advanced Care Paramedics with the Sudbury Paramedic Services Community Paramedicine program job shadowed North East LHIN palliative experts

- Palliative Nurse Practitioner
- Rapid Response Nurse
- Palliative Care Coordinator
- ED Access Care Coordinator

The Ministry of Health proposes changes to the Ambulance Act to enable new patient care models for select 911 patients to provide timely access to definitive care where options other than transport to the ED may be done safely

PRACTICE IN ACTION

- Community Paramedics providing clinical services to palliative patients
- Strengthened partnerships among community palliative care providers and Paramedics
- Decrease in unnecessary end of life hospital transfers
- Initiative is in line with Ontario Palliative Care Network priority indicators to decrease deaths in hospital and unplanned ED visits in the last 30 days of life



Melissa Roney
Deputy Chief
Greater Sudbury
Paramedic Services



Melissa Pretty
Manager of Clinical Services
North East LHIN