



What is a Community Paramedicine?

Community Paramedicine is a branch of primary health care patterned after the physician assessment and treatment model. Patients will be referred to a Community Paramedicine Program Community Care Practitioner (CCP) through the discharge process and the patient's treating physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner. The CCP functions as an extension of primary healthcare by providing services to the community and filling healthcare gaps by way of physician referrals. The CHP delivers primary health care through home visits with emphasis on injury and illness prevention, medical history and health assessment, medication reconciliation, and evaluation of chief complaints that incorporate physician-directed treatment plans and protocols.

The basic premise of the Community Paramedicine program is preventative medicine. A Community Care Practitioner does not replace the specialized services available in a home health care model or physician office, but is an extension of a patient's primary health care to help:

- ✓ Fill gaps in access, assessment, and treatment in primary health care;
- ✓ Decrease delivery costs of Primary Health Care;
- ✓ Increase health of the public through services and education;
- ✓ Decrease unnecessary patient burdens on rural and inner-city emergency and outpatient departments/offices;
- ✓ Enhance early recognition of disease states and refer appropriately;
- ✓ Provide transitional care from hospital/clinic to home to enhance the continuum of care;
- ✓ Decrease non-essential emergency department and clinic visits;
- ✓ Decrease non-essential ambulance transports;
- ✓ Decrease emergency department, clinic, and hospital readmission rates;
- ✓ Render the program sustainable for the long term;
- ✓ Establish a model for use statewide, nationally, and internationally;
- ✓ Reduce healthcare costs through the provision of competent initial triage;