



May 20, 2009

Primary Care Paramedic: Frequently Asked Questions

1. What employment opportunities are available for Primary Care Paramedics (PCP)?

Primary Care Paramedics (PCPs) begin their career with the BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) as part-time employees and are required to be available for a minimum of 8 shifts per month. These shifts may be a combination of regular shifts and on-call shifts. As PCPs gain seniority they have an opportunity to apply for full-time positions.

2. What does it mean to be an on-call, part-time employee?

Most new BCAS paramedics are hired as on-call, part-time employees. On-call, part-time work varies depending on the community, so most employees live within easy access to the ambulance station. During on-call shifts, employees are required to carry a pager at an hourly rate of \$2.00. Once a call is received, pay increases to the normal hourly paramedic rate for a minimum of 4 hours.

3. As a PCP, how many shifts am I required to work?

On-call, part-time employees are required to be available for a minimum of 8 shifts per month where a shift is normally 12 hours.

4. What agency issues licenses for PCPs?

The Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board (EMALB) issues licenses to individuals who have successfully completed a recognized PCP training program.

5. Will I be hired if I have a criminal record?

Criminal record search results are examined on a case by case basis, with each offence reviewed by the BCAS to assess whether the offence impacts the ability of an individual to perform the role of paramedic.

6. Will I be hired if I don't have a clean Driver's Abstract?

Driver's Abstracts are reviewed on a case by case basis to assess the impact it may have on an individual's ability to perform the role of paramedic.

7. Can I apply for a job as a PCP in more than one Region?

Yes, you can apply for a job as a PCP in more than one region. Simply complete one BCAS application form and submit it to the [Human Resources Office](#) in your region. On the application form you will be asked to indicate the other regions you would like to be considered for as opportunities arise.



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8. I would like to pursue a career as a paramedic. What agencies offer training?

Agencies that offer training programs recognized by the Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board (EMALB) for each paramedic license level are available on the [EMALB website](#).

9. I am currently attending an EMR training program and plan on entering into a PCP course as soon as I graduate. Can I apply for a position with BC Ambulance Service now?

Yes, you can apply to BCAS at the EMR license level and your resume will be considered for opportunities in [communities that accept applications for EMR positions](#).

10. I have an EMR license and am currently working towards obtaining my PCP license through the Justice Institute of BC. If I apply with the BC Ambulance Service now and am hired on, can I apply for a PCP position when I graduate?

Currently, you can apply for an EMR position with the BCAS. If hired, you will begin an initial six month probation period in the location of your first job. When you obtain your PCP license, you will become classified as a PCP and can begin practicing at the PCP level at your current post. Once you have completed your initial six month probationary period in the location of your first job you will be eligible to apply for other PCP career opportunities within the Service. Please note that the six month probation period includes months spent practicing at both the EMR and PCP level.

11. I will graduate with my PCP license in two months, but I won't be able to apply for a Class 4 Driver's license for three months. I have an EMR license and was wondering if I can I apply to work with BC Ambulance Service as an EMR in the meantime?

As each BCAS region has different employment needs, situations such as this are reviewed on a case by case basis. You are encouraged to contact the [Human Resources Office](#) in the Region where you would like to work and discuss the opportunities that are available.

12. What career advancement opportunities are available to PCPs?

PCPs with the BCAS can pursue a variety of career options in the areas of training, quality improvement and Emergency Medical Dispatch. Additional career advancement opportunities include supervisory positions such as Unit Chief or District Supervisor, as well as specialized paramedic work as an Infant Transport Team Paramedic, Advanced Care Paramedic, or Critical Care Paramedic.

13. Is it possible to work as a volunteer paramedic with BCAS?

While BCAS does not have a volunteer program, those interested in pursuing a volunteer paramedic opportunity are encouraged to contact St. John's Ambulance Service to inquire about their Medical First Responder program.



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14. I am going to be graduating from my paramedic training in Ontario within two months and am interested in a career with BC Ambulance Service. What is the process for out of province applicants joining the Service?

BCAS accepts applications on a continual basis from individuals who hold a BC paramedic license. Information regarding the paramedic licensing process in BC can be directed to the [Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board \(EMALB\)](#), a Government body separate from the BCAS.

To explore career opportunities with the BCAS please contact the [Human Resources Office](#) in the Region that you would like to work in or visit [our website](#), which includes information on the qualifications, application process, and career opportunities for individuals who are interested in working as a BCAS paramedic.

15. Is it possible for a paramedic from outside of Canada to work as a paramedic in British Columbia?

BCAS accepts applications from paramedics who hold a paramedic license in British Columbia and who are eligible to work in Canada. Information on the employment qualifications and the application process can be found on [our website](#).

Questions regarding license qualifications can be directed to the [Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board \(EMALB\)](#).

If you are interested in working only in BC, you may be eligible for the British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) program, which offers accelerated immigration for qualified skilled workers and experienced entrepreneurs who wish to settle in BC and become permanent residents of Canada. For more information contact:

BC PNP
Economic Immigration Programs Branch
Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development
730 - 999 Canada Place
Vancouver, BC V6C 3E1
Canada
Email: PNPinfo@gov.bc.ca
Phone: 604-775-2227
Fax: 604-660-4092
Web: www.pnp.gov.bc.ca

16. I would like to apply to take the training to be a PCP at the Justice Institute and I have the opportunity to get funding through EI and the Provincial Government. Who can I contact for assistance in filling out the necessary forms?

Please contact the [Human Resources Office](#) in the Region that you would like to work in and they will be able to obtain the information for you.



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17. I am an Emergency Medical Technician working full-time in the industrial and oil and gas sector in Alberta. I am originally from BC and am interested in returning to work as a paramedic in BC. What is the process for joining the BC Ambulance Service?

Once you receive your BC paramedic license, BCAS will accept your application for employment. Information regarding the licensing process can be directed to the [Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board \(EMALB\)](#), a Government body separate from the BCAS. To explore career opportunities with the BCAS please contact the [Human Resources Office](#) in the Region that you would like to work in.