

Ontario Base Hospital Group (OBHG) Paramedic Representation

Paramedics are important members of all the OBHG committees. Many paramedics have asked questions over the past few years related to these committees and we would like to share some questions and answers with you.

1) What is the role of OBHG?

OBHG's function is to provide advice to the Ministry of Health Emergency Health Regulatory and Accountability Branch (EHRAB) and the Emergency Health Program Management and Delivery Branch (EHPMDB).

2) How many committees are there and what are their respective functions?

1: Medical Advisory Committee (MAC)

Provide advice on matters relating to patient care provided by paramedics and other relevant allied professionals. The MAC is responsible for making recommendations which represent the interest of the patients and citizens of Ontario through matters relating to leadership, administration, operation and funding and program delivery, in the interest of patient safety. They also advise EHRAB and EHPMDB on medical issues and the role of Base Hospitals related to the delivery of EMS-based prehospital care.

Committee Membership:

Co-Chairs

Medical Directors of the eight Regional Base Hospitals

Managers/Directors of the eight Regional Base Hospitals

Paramedic Advisors (four total: ACP & PCP and/or rural and urban) EHRAB representative

EHPMDB representative

Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs (OAPC) representatives

OBHG Education Subcommittee Chair

OBHG Data Quality Management Subcommittee Chair

Paramedic Program College representative

2: Data Quality Management (DQM) Subcommittee

Advises on information gathering and database issues relating to the provision of ambulance based prehospital care in Ontario. Reviews current patient data collection and data reporting standards and practices and regularly updates the patients related data gathering and reporting requirements and practices necessary to meet the current and emerging needs of stakeholders. It is also responsible for assisting Base Hospital Programs to monitor the quality of patient care and service delivery in Ontario.

Committee Membership:

Chair

Representatives from the 8 regional Base Hospitals; with data or quality expertise

Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) representative

Paramedic Advisors (ACP & PCP and/or rural and urban)

EHRAB representative

Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs (OAPC) representatives

OBHG Education Subcommittee Chair

MOHLTC Emergency Health Services Branch Communications representatives

Research and Epidemiologist representative

3: Education Subcommittee (ESC)

Reviews current paramedic education delivery and development standards and practices. It also provides educational objective development resources, delivers plans or programs necessary to maintain and improve the current and emerging needs of stakeholders.

Committee Members:

Chair

Representatives from the 8 Regional Base Hospital; Education lead or designate

Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) representative

Paramedic Advisors (ACP & PCP and/or rural and urban)

EHRAB representative

Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs (OAPC) representatives

Paramedic Program College representative

Data Quality Management (DQM) Subcommittee Chair

3) How often do these committees meet?

Most committees meet face to face four times a year with additional teleconferences and project meetings scheduled in addition; depending on the issues or projects at hand.

4) What is the role of the paramedic advisors on these OBHG committees?

Paramedics are the front line providers of paramedic services, and having their point of view heard and be part of the advice that is being forwarded to EHS is essential.

5) How can I apply to become an OBHG paramedic advisor? What qualifications are required to apply?

Every three years OBHG will distribute a call for applicants for paramedic advisors for the committees. Each applicant can indicate for which (or all) committee(s) they are applying to.

Selection criteria will include the following: They must meet the basic criteria which include a letter of support from both their Base Hospital and Paramedic service; we prefer candidates who are front line paramedics with at least a few years of experience. We aim for both urban and rural representation (and/or PCP and ACP representation); we aim for representation from across Ontario, across all Base Hospitals.

Application submissions should include the following:

1. Cover letter (specifically indicating your paramedic level ie. PCP, ACP; whether you work for rural or urban service, and where you practice ie. northern or southern Ontario; your interest in one or more committee(s), and identifying why you would be a good candidate to represent your peers).
2. Brief Curriculum Vitae.
3. A letter of support from your respective paramedic service operator(s)/employer(s).
4. A letter of support from your certifying Base Hospital.

6) What is the commitment of the paramedic advisor? What am I supposed to do?

The commitment of the paramedic advisor is to attend the respective committee meetings in person or via teleconference; we ask for the support from your Paramedic services for all applicants to optimize the chances of you being able to attend the majority of meetings.

7) How long is the term of a paramedic advisor on any OBHG committee?

Currently, each paramedic advisor will sit for a three-year term, (possibly changed to a three-year term) in certain circumstances this will be amended due to changes in employment or position status. It is imperative that front line paramedics are represented.

8) Do I receive compensation as a paramedic advisor?

Travel expenses incurred to attend any of these committee meetings will be reimbursed only as preapproved. Your participation is strictly voluntary; there is no financial compensation available for wages.