



AdaCountyParamedics



AdaCountyParamedics  
Community Paramedic

-Partners in Healthcare-  
Filling unmet needs with  
untapped resources.



# A "NEW" PARADIGM

EMS Agenda of the Future

Future of Emergency Care:

Emergency Medical Services at the Crossroads (Institute of Medicine Report)

- Coordination
- Regionalization
- Accountability



# THE VISION

- Emergency medical services of the future will be community-based health management that is fully integrated with the overall health care system. It will have the ability to identify and modify illness and injury risks, provide acute illness and injury care and follow-up, and contribute to treatment of chronic conditions and community health monitoring.

# THE VISION, CONT.

- This new entity will be developed from redistribution of existing health care resources and will be integrated with other health care providers and public health and public safety agencies. It will improve community health and result in more appropriate use of acute health care resources. EMS will remain the public's emergency medical safety net.

# EMS CAN HELP

- Only using a fraction of their skills
- Already see patients in their own homes
- Would help with continuity of care



# COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC

- A paramedic trained to do primary care extension in homes
- Expanded role versus expanded scope
- Has been successful in Canada and Australia for years
- Several programs in the US
- When you've seen one community paramedic program, you've seen one community paramedic program

# ➤ Community Paramedic Possible Impact!

- Decrease overall health care costs
- Eliminate health disparities
- Proper referrals to primary care physicians, home health organizations and other community resources
- Decreased misuse of emergency departments
- Improved patient outcomes
- Better collaboration with community partners
- Help to prevent serious health issues/avoid the emergency in the first place
- Less expensive to prevent than to treat

# Community Paramedic Possible Impact Continued!

- Proactive vs. reactive EMS care
- Avenue for patient education
- Decreased non-essential ambulance transports
- Decreased hospital readmissions



# Community Paramedic Examples

## ➤ Nova Scotia, Canada

- Acute, Non-scheduled Care
  - Hypoglycemia, Minor Wounds, Eyes
- Acute, Scheduled Care
  - Antibiotics (IV)
  - Wound Care (Suturing)
  - CHF Post discharge
  - Monitor Medications & BGL, & BP
  - Immunizations

## ➤ Impressive Results

**28%**

- REDUCTION IN EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS

**40%**

- REDUCTION IN CLINIC VISITS

## ➤ OVER 5 YEARS

# Community Paramedic Examples Continued

- Queensland, Australia
  - Wound dressings
    - including use of local anesthetics
  - Suturing/minor surgical procedures
  - Chronic pain management
  - X-rays
  - Mental health assessment treatment
  - Vaccinations
  - Assisting with minor surgery
  - Blood
- Alaska Community Health Aide/Practitioner (CHA/P)
  - 24-hour emergency care
  - Acute, non-emergent and urgent care
  - Prenatal, emergency childbirth and
  - New-born care
  - Preventive care
  - Chronic care

# Wake County EMS (NC)

- Respond (critical calls)
- Reduce (home visits)
- Redirect (alternative destinations, mental health & substance abuse)
  - Vaccines
  - Intravenous Catheter Changes
  - Asthma Management MDI Uses
  - Peak Flows
  - Steroid uses
  - Prevention
  - Public Health Activities
  - Immunizations
  - Pt Documentation SOAP Notes
  - History & Physical
  - Mobile ISTAT Lab Work
  - Home Safety Elderly and Child Wound Care
  - Post Op Other Wounds
  - Catheters - Foley, Straight Cath
  - Cardiac Rehab
  - Stroke Rehab
  - Fluoride Varnishing
  - Disease Investigations

# GOALS – ADA COUNTY

1. Increase positive patient health outcomes and overall patient experience.
2. Decrease overall patient/healthcare provider costs.
3. Provider/Physician Driven.

# Ada Community Paramedic Scope of Practice. (Work in Progress)

**The community paramedic program is designed to improve patient outcomes, decrease overall healthcare costs, and improve the patient/client satisfaction with their overall health care experience. The Community Paramedics will accomplish these goals through the following activities:**

1. Identify and fill gaps in community health services by connecting resources for underserved populations
2. Identify frequent users of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Emergency Departments (ED) and develop proactive patient management programs to meet their needs



# Ada Community Paramedic Scope of Practice. (Continued)

3. Develop quality initiatives, financial incentives, and safe options for EMS treat without transport and treat and transport to alternative destination programs
4. Provide in home follow up care to patients after hospital or ED care including but not limited to: assessments, vaccinations, laboratory services, diagnostic monitoring, medication reconciliation, wound care, disease and injury education, and fall prevention.
5. Electronically communicate patient needs with medical home primary care providers and the health care system to optimize patient care and effectively measure and analyze the program benefits

# Implementation Plan



1. Support
2. Partnerships
3. Funding
4. Policy Development
5. Training
6. Implementation
7. Evaluation

# Funding

## Initial

- Grants and other donations
- CMS Innovation Center
- Demonstration Projects

## On-going

- Agreements with healthcare providers
- Demonstrated performance with positive outcomes
- Reimbursement plan by insurance providers

# Remaining Questions/Discussion



Thank you for your time  
and consideration

