

**COLLEGE OF PARAMEDICS OF NOVA SCOTIA
PARAMEDIC PRACTICE GUIDELINE**

**SCOPE OF PROFESSION, CLASS OF LICENSURE SCOPE, INDIVIDUAL SCOPE OF PRACTICE AND SCOPE OF
EMPLOYMENT**

As self-regulating professionals, paramedics are always responsible and accountable for their own practice and actions. This regulatory tool has been developed to assist the paramedic, and others, in understanding a paramedic's responsibilities as they relate to the scope of the paramedic profession, as well as a paramedic's class of licensure scope, individual scope of practice and employment scope of practice.

SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION

The scope of the profession, or legislated scope of practice for paramedics, is established by the Paramedics Act. The scope of the profession generally refers to the roles, functions and procedures of the profession as a whole.

The practice of paramedicine is defined as the "practices and procedures usually performed by a paramedic under the direct or indirect supervision of a medical practitioner" and is further defined to include all of the following:

- conducting prevention, education and advocacy activities related to the practices and procedures performed by a paramedic,
- developing and evaluating policies and systems related to the practices and procedures performed by a paramedic, and
- conducting research and providing education, consultation, management, administration and regulation in relation to the practices and procedures performed by a paramedic.

The scope of the profession is also informed by the Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics, and Guidelines and Position Statements of the profession.

CLASS OF LICENSURE SCOPE

The class of licensure scope refers to the roles, functions and procedures specific to each of the four classes of licensure within the scope of the profession: Primary, Intermediate, Advanced and Critical Care. Each paramedic is licensed within a specific class of licensure and is expected to adhere to the roles, functions and procedures for that class of licensure.

INDIVIDUAL SCOPE OF PRACTICE

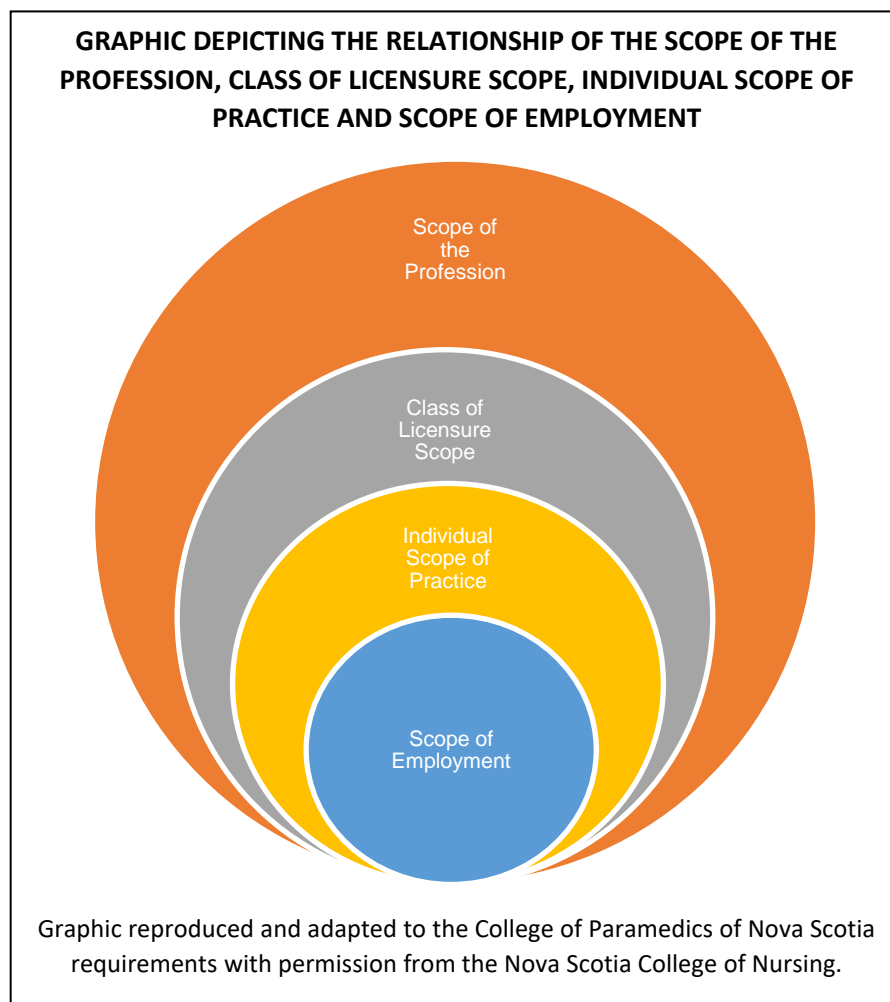
The individual scope of practice is specific to each paramedic. A paramedic may only perform activities and provide care or services that the paramedic is educated, authorized and competent to carry out. The individual scope of practice can be expanded or minimized by changes in the practice context and/or employer policies. The individual scope of practice is based upon a paramedic's:

- entry to practice education,
- practice experience,
- current practice setting (clinical, education, prevention, advocacy, consultation, management, administration and regulation), and
- formal and informal education completed over the course of a paramedic's career.

As a paramedic moves between employers their individual scope of practice changes and they are required to maximize their individual scope of practice over time. Individual scope of practice can be expanded through new knowledge and qualifications or learning new activities and/or skills. However, it can never exceed the class of licensure scope or practice of the profession.

SCOPE OF EMPLOYMENT

Scope of employment is the description of a paramedic's role within the employment setting. It is defined through employer descriptions, policies, procedures, processes, education, evaluation, and guidelines. An individual's scope of practice is often confined or defined by scope of employment. Scope of employment often impacts the individual scope of practice by narrowing a paramedic's practice to activities that are specific to the employment setting. Scope of employment changes from employment setting to employment setting. Like the parameters around the individual scope of practice, the employment scope may not exceed the scope of the profession.



The College does not take a position in situations where a paramedic practices to their full scope of practice when it is to the benefit of a patient.