

## Paramedics

Paramedics in general practice | HEE | NHS England | 2022

Paramedics have been an integral part of the primary care multi-professional team within general practice for many years, and their numbers have increased since 2021 with the introduction of funding via the Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service (DES). The purpose of this guidance is to improve understanding among general practice staff and ambulance services of the different scopes of practice of paramedics working in general practice.

Full detail: [Paramedics in general practice](#)

First Contact Practitioners and Advanced Practitioners in Primary Care: (Paramedic). A Roadmap to Practice | HEE | 2021

This document provides a roadmap of education for practice when moving into First Contact Practitioner (FCP) roles, and onward to Advanced Practice (AP) roles in Primary Care.

This is the Paramedic version of the educational pathway to FCP and AP in Primary Care.

Full document: [First Contact Practitioners and Advanced Practitioners in Primary Care: \(Paramedic\). A Roadmap to Practice](#)

Eaton, G. et al. | Understanding the role of the paramedic in primary care: a realist review | BMC Medicine | Vol. 19, 145 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-021-02019-z>

Recent recommendations to improve UK NHS workforce capacities have led to a major push to increase the numbers of paramedics recruited into primary care. However, gaps exist in the evidence base regarding how and why these changes would work, for whom, in what context and to what extent.

The review highlights the complexity surrounding the introduction of paramedics into primary care roles. As well as offering an insight into understanding the paramedic professional identity, we also discuss the range of expectations this professional group will face in the transition to primary care. These expectations come from patients, general practitioners and paramedics themselves. This review is the first to offer insight into understanding the impact paramedics may have on the international primary care workforce and shaping how they might be optimally deployed.

Full paper: [Understanding the role of the paramedic in primary care: a realist review](#)

Related:

- [Paramedics in primary care - how do they impact the workforce?](#)
- [Good communication and clear role boundaries help paramedics work effectively in primary care](#) [An NIHR plain English summary of the above article]

## Paramedic Specialist in Primary and Urgent Care Core Capabilities Framework | HEE | College of Paramedics

This framework describes the key skills, competencies and scope of practice for paramedic specialists in primary and urgent care. It illustrates the capability requirements for paramedics within this role to work safely and effectively for the benefit of patients who present with a variety of long-term conditions, acute exacerbations, illnesses and injuries.

Full detail: [Paramedic Specialist in Primary and Urgent Care Core Capabilities Framework](#)

Eaton, G. et al. | Contribution of paramedics in primary and urgent care: a systematic review | British Journal of General Practice | 2020; 70 (695): e421-e426. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgp20X709877>

Within the UK, there are now opportunities for paramedics to work across a variety of healthcare settings away from their traditional ambulance service employer, with many opting to move into primary care. The aim of this systematic review was to provide an overview of the types of clinical roles paramedics are undertaking in primary and urgent care settings within the UK.

Key findings focused on the description of the clinical role, the clinical work environment, the contribution of paramedics to the primary care workforce, the clinical activities they undertook, patient satisfaction, and education and training for paramedics moving from the ambulance service into primary care.

Current published research identifies that the role of the paramedic working in primary and urgent care is being advocated and implemented across the UK; however, there is insufficient detail regarding the clinical contribution of paramedics in these clinical settings. More research needs to be done to determine how, why, and in what context paramedics are now working in primary and urgent care, and what their overall contribution is to the primary care workforce.

Full paper: [Contribution of paramedics in primary and urgent care: a systematic review](#)

Related: [The role of paramedics in primary care may be innovative, but requires a stronger evidence base](#)

Schofield, B. et al. | Exploring how paramedics are deployed in general practice and the perceived benefits and drawbacks: a mixed-methods scoping study | BJGP Open 2020; 4 (2) | <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgpopen20X101037>

The NHS England GP Forward View proposes development of the multidisciplinary, integrated primary care workforce to support frontline service delivery, including the employment of paramedics. However, very little is known about the safety, clinical effectiveness, or cost-effectiveness of paramedics working in general practice.

The aim of this paper was to understand how paramedics are deployed in general practice, and to investigate the theories and drivers that underpin this service development.

This mixed-methods study found very little evidence on the safety and cost-effectiveness of paramedics working in general practice and significant variation in the ways that paramedics are deployed, particularly in terms of the patients seen and conditions treated.

Nonetheless, there is a largely positive view of this development and a perceived reduction in GP workload. However, some concerns centre on the time needed from GPs to train and supervise paramedic staff.

The contribution of paramedics in general practice has not been fully evaluated. There is a need for research that takes account of the substantial variation between service models to fully understand the benefits and consequences for patients, the workforce, and the NHS.

Full paper: [Exploring how paramedics are deployed in general practice and the perceived benefits and drawbacks: a mixed-methods scoping study](#)

Eaton G. et al | Understanding the roles and work of paramedics in primary care: a national cross-sectional survey | BMJ Open | 2022; 12:e067476.

This research aimed to fill a current knowledge gap, namely the current scope of clinical role of paramedics in primary care.

Considerable variation was found in job titles, level of education and provision of clinical supervision of paramedics in primary care. Differing levels of practice were noted, despite guidance documents that attempt to standardise the role. Statistical analysis of quantitative data highlighted that relationships exist between paramedic clinical exposure in primary care, level of education, and ability of independently prescribe medicines and the extent to which clinical presentations are seen and examinations performed. However, free-text responses indicated that challenges in relation to access to further education and clinical supervision to support clinical development resulted in frustration for paramedics who work in this setting.

As well as offering an insight into the demographics of the primary care paramedic work force, there is indication of the clinical scope of role undertaken in this setting. Based on our findings, we recommend changes to education and support, governance and legislation to ensure paramedics employed in primary care can work to achieve the full extent of their professional capability.

Full paper: [Understanding the roles and work of paramedics in primary care: a national cross-sectional survey](#)

Mahtani K. R. et al. | Setting the scene for paramedics in general practice: what can we expect? | Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine | 2018 | Vol. 111(6) p.195-198.

New strategies are needed to tackle the current pressures in general practice and reduce the risks of harm to patients. The NHS England GP Forward View advocates investing and developing new models of care, including expansion of a multidisciplinary, integrated primary care team. These recommendations reflect the findings of the Primary Care Workforce Commission, who highlighted the potential roles for clinical pharmacists, physician associates, healthcare assistants and physiotherapists, which many general practices are now making greater use of.

The Commission also recommended that general practices should consider more opportunities to use the skills of paramedics in primary care. Specific roles may include running clinics, triaging and managing minor illnesses, as well as provide continuity for patients with complex health needs. Further roles may include assessment and management of requests for same-day urgent home visits, as well as regular visits to homebound patients with long-term conditions. The commission highlighted that these innovative roles should be subject to further evaluation. This commentary uses historical and current perspectives to model how the role could be fully used.

Full paper: [Setting the scene for paramedics in general practice: what can we expect?](#)

### Recruiting paramedic practitioners through the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) | NHS Confederation | 2021

This guide explains the ARRS and highlights how paramedics can support population health management through on-the-day demand and access with hear and treat telephone triage; treatment of minor ailments and injuries; and medicines supply via patient group directions (PGDs). They can also undertake home visits and support the Enhanced Health in Care Homes Service.

#### Paramedic benefits to PCN:

- Prescribe, issue and review medications.
- Perform and interpret ECGs.
- Undertake the collection of pathological specimens.
- Lead certain community services i.e. monitoring blood pressure and diabetes risk for elderly patients in sheltered housing.
- Perform urgent and same-day home visits.
- Practitioner works as part of the PCN MDT.

#### Paramedic benefits to patients:

- Reduced waiting times.
- Greater access to home visits.
- Access to advice on general healthcare and selfmanagement.
- Alternative to visiting A&E.

Full detail: [Recruiting paramedic practitioners through the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme \(ARRS\)](#)

## Piloting the use of paramedics in primary care in Dudley | Arden & Gem

To respond to challenges around GP workforce availability and capacity, Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) developed a 12-month pilot to determine whether employing paramedics in primary care would help meet these challenges.

The pilot's aims were to release GP workforce capacity within the two practices, maintain or improve patient satisfaction, and reduce unnecessary attendances at A&E departments and Urgent Care Centres.

At the end of the pilot, the evaluation process identified the successes, benefits and challenges associated with the introduction of a paramedic role within the two practices.

All stakeholders involved in delivering the pilot, including practice partners, clinicians, managers and patients, identified that the service is adding value and having a positive impact in the following areas:

- Avoiding unnecessary attendance at A&E
- Supporting unplanned discharges and 111 reviews
- Reducing anxiety and stress for patients
- Improving patient satisfaction
- Releasing time for GPs to spend with patients, to complete additional education and to attend meetings
- Developing a contained see, treat and discharge caseload.

Full detail: [Piloting the use of paramedics in primary care in Dudley](#)

## Making the best use of paramedics in primary care roles. A Toolkit for Primary Care Networks | Community Practitioner Alliance CIC | Sheffield Hallam University | 2020

Paramedics have been working in primary care for a number of years and evidence of some success of the role within a primary care setting has led to the GP contract adopting it as one of the recommended additional roles.

This toolkit has been developed as an aide for PCN's, clinical directors, practice managers and employers to support their understanding, thinking and planning when delivering the new GP contract and the NHS people plan.

Full detail: [Making the best use of paramedics in primary care roles. A Toolkit for Primary Care Networks](#)

Muldoon, D. & Seenan, C. | The introduction of Advanced Paramedics into Primary Care in Northern Ireland: A qualitative descriptive study of the Experiences of General Practitioners | British Paramedic Journal | Volume 6, Number 3, December 2021, pp. 1-6

This research examined the experiences of General Practitioners (GP's) that have introduced an Advanced paramedic into their primary care team in Northern Ireland.

Generally, there was widespread support from the GPs for the introduction of advanced paramedics into primary care teams. The reasons were multi-factorial but the reduction in GP workload featured prominently. The participants reported benefits in terms of increased resilience and work-life balance. The capacity to provide a clinician with experience of dealing with acute and emergency presentations, in combination with managing routine procedures, was also reported to be of great importance.

Full detail: [The introduction of Advanced Paramedics into Primary Care in Northern Ireland: A qualitative descriptive study of the Experiences of General Practitioners](#)

Xi, D. et al. | Paramedics working in general practice: a scoping review | HRB Open research | 2021

General practice is facing unprecedented demand for its services related to rising expectations, an aging society and increased prevalence of chronic disease. Paramedics may be recruited to work in general practice to meet some of these demands. The authors undertook a scoping review to map the current literature considering paramedics working in general practice and inform follow-on research.

The review found that paramedics have diverse skills that enable roles within general practice, some of which are context specific. Additional training is considered necessary to facilitate the transition from emergency care to general practice.

No research was found that quantitatively assessed the impact of paramedics working in general practice on healthcare expenditure or patient health outcomes. The authors conclude that there is a paucity of empiric scientific literature considering paramedic working in general practice. Further research is needed to inform training pathways, the structure of clinical practice and to measure outcomes.

Full paper: [Paramedics working in general practice: a scoping review](#)