
Medical Responder Programs - Scope Change FAQs

Please note that these changes to scope of practice are a significant undertaking involving many stakeholders and government groups in the province. Every effort will be made to keep the information below current, but this is a transition phase as these changes take place. We will do our best to answer your questions but many of these processes are outside our control and we may not always have all the answers.

What does “scope change” refer to?

In September 2022 [BC Ministerial Order 292](#) expanded the scope of practice for every level of Emergency Medical Assistants (FR, EMR and paramedics) in the province of BC. As a result, license holders at all levels immediately had restrictions placed on their licenses, preventing them from using the expanded scope until first receiving training.

The full set of Emergency Medical Assistants Regulation is available here:

https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/210_2010

When will the changes come into place?

The changes are in effect now, but it has taken time for training programs to be developed and approved by the licensing board. This means licenses are all restricted until an individual has taken the additional training required.

When do I need to get this training completed by?

The government has set an initial deadline of September 2024. They may choose to extend this timeline but that is outside our control.

Can I get the new additional scope training with your programs?

Yes. Starting January 2024, all of our public courses will automatically incorporate the additional Schedule 1 and 2 and requirements into the curriculum. Anyone who has already taken their EMR training and just needs the expanded Schedule 1 and 2 requirements can simply sign up for the “[EMR Scope Updates Training](#)”.

Do other training providers have the revised Schedule 1 and 2 requirements?

All training providers need to have a program approved by the licensing board to offer the updated Schedule 1 and 2 requirements. It will be best to ask the training providers directly as the list on the EMALB website may be delayed with updates.

What kind of scope upgrades do you offer?

We currently offer scope change courses for First Responder and Emergency Medical Responder training only. Our schedule is being updated on a regular basis with new courses being added.

I've done my previous EMR training with you. Can I take a bridging or update course to get the additional Schedule 1 and 2 qualifications?

Yes. If you have a valid certification or a license, you can register in our Scope Update training.

I've completed my EMR training with a different training provider. Can I take training with you to get the new Schedule 1 and 2 requirements?

Yes. If you have a valid certification (ie. It was issued less than 3 years ago) from an EMALB recognized training institution, you can register in our Schedule 1 and 2 scope change training.

Course lengths and costs for this program seem to vary quite a bit between different training providers. Why should I train with you when other courses are shorter and less expensive?

The first thing to check is whether a course includes the new Schedule 1 and 2 requirements. Some other programs may not meet these training requirements, in which case you'll need to take one of those sessions and then a Schedule 1 and 2 update as well. Our FR and EMR programs encompass all of the revised Schedule 1 AND Schedule 2 training requirements.

EMR programs are an intensive training experience. We feel that our three week in-person training strikes the right balance between length of program and ensuring that students have enough time to properly practice and develop the required skills. We have moved specific components of the training online, so that the in-class time has maximum value for students. We stand by the quality of our programming with policies like our Unsuccessful Student Policy which allows students who are unsuccessful at licensing or who need additional support, to take additional training at no extra cost.

How do I get the new schedules added to my license? Is there another exam?

Successfully completing an EMALB approved gap course will grant you the Schedule 1 or 2 requirements (ie. There is no separate/additional Schedule 1 or 2 examination). You are still required to follow the current procedures and processes for examinations licensing as an EMR (eg. If you don't already hold a license, you will need to undertake examinations with EMALB).

I am employed by BCEHS and qualify for paid training. Can I take my gap course with you?

We welcome employer funded students from any business or agency, however each employer has their own policies on which schools, programs and/or courses they are willing to sponsor. We encourage you to speak with your employer to confirm the training you're intending to take is eligible for paid training or tuition reimbursement programs prior to committing to any school or course.

I have already completed some of the updated Schedule 1 and/or Schedule 2 training with another provider. Can I come and complete just the additional scope update endorsements I need with you?

Unfortunately, no. While other agencies and employers are offering individual modules (eg. “Pain Control” or “Pulse Oximetry”) to target individual components of the scope updates, our programs deliver all the updates found in the new Schedule 1 and Schedule 2. The content for the various new skills and knowledge is intertwined throughout training, making it impossible for participants to attend for individual skill or knowledge endorsements.

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