Primary Care Paramedic Examination Blueprint

What is an Examination Blueprint?

COPR administers entry to practice examinations at the Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Primary Care Paramedic (PCP), and Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP) designations. COPR has an examination blueprint specific to each designation.

The examination blueprint for the COPR Entry to Practice Examinations provides an outline of the content to be covered and the expected number of questions per competence area for entry level emergency medical responders and paramedics in Canada. The examination is structured around the eight (8) competence areas described in the 2024 Canadian Paramedic Competence Framework (CPCF):

A	Professionalism (Professionalism)
B	Patient- and Community-Centred Communication (Communication)
C	Integrated Collaborative Health Care (Collaboration)
D	Continuous Learning and Adapting to Evidence (Learning and Adapting)
E	Health of Professional (Health)
F	Advocacy for Health, Equity, and Justice (Advocacy)
G	Leadership (Leadership)
H	Care Along a Health and Social Continuum (Care)

The CPCF provides additional information on the enabling competencies that support the key examinable competencies. This blueprint must be used in conjunction with the CPCF, found on the COPR website.

An examination blueprint ensures that candidates are tested in a fair and comparable manner across examination administrations, despite completing different examinations.

The following examination blueprint was approved by the COPR Board of Directors on June 20, 2024.

COPR
Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators

OCRP
Organisation canadienne des régulateurs paramédicaux

Primary Care Paramedic Blueprint (2024)

PCP Candidates have four (4) hours to complete and submit their examination.

General Parameters	Target
Total number of questions	200
Number of scored (operational) questions	180
Number of unscored (experimental) questions	20

Structural Variables		Target Percentage	Target Range of Questions
Cognitive Level of Question	Knowledge	30.00%	54 - 66
	Application	50.00%	90 - 110
	Critical Thinking	20.00%	36 - 44
Patient Population (assuming 60.00% of questions involve a patient)	Neonatal Patient	5.00%	5 - 7
	Pediatric Patient	15.00%	16 - 20
	Adult Patient	45.00%	48 - 60
	Geriatric Patient	35.00%	37 - 47

Competence Areas		Target Percentage	Target Range of Questions
A	Professionalism	4.00%	7 - 9
B	Communication	5.00%	9 - 11
C	Collaboration	5.00%	9 - 11
D	Learning and Adapting	3.00%	5 - 7
E	Health	5.00%	9 - 11
F	Advocacy	5.00%	9 - 11
G	Leadership	3.00%	5 - 7
H	Care	70.00%	126 - 154

Competence Areas		Target Percentage	Target Range of Questions
A Professionalism	Competency A1	52.22%	3 - 5
	Competency A2	21.11%	1 - 2
	Competency A3	26.67%	1 - 3
B Communication	Competency B1	47.22%	4 - 6
	Competency B2	20.00%	1 - 3
	Competency B3	12.78%	1 - 2
	Competency B4	10.56%	1 - 2
	Competency B5	9.44%	1 - 2
C Collaboration	Competency C1*	–	–
	Competency C2	43.89%	3 - 5
	Competency C3	23.33%	2 - 3
	Competency C4	32.78%	2 - 4
D Learning and Adapting	Competency D1	15.00%	1 - 1
	Competency D2	50.00%	2 - 4
	Competency D3	35.00%	1 - 3
E Health	Competency E1	28.33%	2 - 4
	Competency E2	26.11%	2 - 3
	Competency E3	10.00%	1 - 2
	Competency E4	20.00%	1 - 3
	Competency E5	15.56%	1 - 2
F Advocacy	Competency F1	45.00%	4 - 5
	Competency F2	35.00%	3 - 4
	Competency F3	20.00%	1 - 3
G Leadership	Competency G1*	–	–
	Competency G2	71.67%	3 - 5
	Competency G3	28.33%	1 - 2
H Care	Competency H1	19.44%	24 - 30
	Competency H2	68.33%	86 - 106
	Competency H3	12.22%	15 - 19
	Competency H4*	–	–

* Denotes a competency that has been excluded from assessment on the PCP Entry to Practice Examination due to its examinability and/or is testable under a different competence area.

Acknowledgements

The development of the COPR blueprints was a collaborative effort by subject matter experts, staff, paramedic practitioners, and consultants lead by **Dr. Scott Cassidy, Ph.D.**, an expert in psychometric assessment (psychometrician). Subject matter experts (SME) representation spanned across multiple jurisdictions and areas of practice (including item development contractors, educators, and regulators). There were ten (10) SMEs on the PCP Sub-Committee.

Primary Care Paramedic Sub-Committee

Jurisdiction	Committee Member
British Columbia	Mat Coleman, Elizabeth Williams
Alberta	Tim Ford, Amy Specht
Saskatchewan	Kathy Christmann, Jen Williams
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	Connie Wilson
Manitoba	Evelyn Green
Nova Scotia	Ryan Brown
Newfoundland and Labrador	Ken Driscoll

In addition, COPR wishes to acknowledge and thank the following individuals for their time, commitment, and expertise:

- Eva Schausberger, CAMPROF Canada, for providing administrative and validation survey support for the project.
- Mr. Gulam Khan, M.Ed. and Ms. Sulan Kith, M.A., psychometricians who facilitated two of the three sub-committees during the Toronto blueprinting meeting.
- Members of COPR staff
  - Chelsea Wilker, Executive Director
  - Tammy Leach, Examination Manager
  - Tim Comerford, Senior Administrative and Examination Coordinator

Sincere appreciation to the many emergency medical responders and paramedics from across the country and areas of practice who participated in the validation survey.