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As you are aware, the Department of Health and Wellness in partnership with the College of Paramedic Advisory Committee (COPAC), are moving forward to establish the College of Paramedics on April 1, 2017.

Since our last update with you on December 22, 2016, we have received requests for clarification and additional information from members. We are sharing additional information today, to address your questions.

If any member requires additional information or clarification, please contact Bud Avery, Manager, Paramedic Regulatory Affairs, Emergency Health Services by email at Bud.Avery@novascotia.ca.

Q. What will the annual fees be for paramedics?

Fees have been set based on the budget for the first year of operation. The budget reflects operational costs such as office space, business equipment, liability insurance, payroll for an Executive Director and Administrative Support, and other operational costs.

To support the operational budget, COPAC members voted to set the initial fee at \$408.00 plus HST, for a total of \$469.20.

Paramedics registering with the College to practice in Nova Scotia will be required to pay \$469.20 before April 1, 2017.

Q. Why do I have to pay a licensing fee?

Licensing fees are a part of any self-regulated profession. The College must generate sufficient funding from membership to support the operational needs of the College.

COPAC has done considerable research and determined that this amount is consistent with annual licensing fees charged by other paramedic regulators in other jurisdictions.

Q. How do I pay this?

As of March 1, you will be able to register and pay the licensing fee online. A link to the registration website will be provided closer to March 1. Each paramedic is required to complete the registration form. Once the registration form is completed, the payment function will be made available and payment of the fee will be required to complete registration and licensing.

We are exploring other payment options for 2018/2019, including payroll deduction, monthly bank deductions and other payment plan options. The College Council will work with employers to facilitate payment options.

Credit cards will be accepted for payment. Personal checks will not be accepted.

Q. What if I do not register and pay the fee by April 1?

It is important that you register by April 1, 2017.

Paramedics with an active registration with EHS who do not meet the registration and payment deadline of April 1, 2017, will not be eligible to practice until they register and pay the fee.

If the registration application and fee is paid on or after April 22, 2017, the individual will be required to apply as a new applicant, and a late application fee will apply.

Q. I am currently registered as an active paramedic in good standing with EHS. What do I need to do to become licensed by the College of Paramedics on April 1, 2017?

A paramedic with current registration in good standing with EHS, who completes the online registration form and pays the licensing fee by midnight March 31, will be eligible to practice on April 1, 2017. The Registrar of the College of Paramedics of Nova Scotia will issue a licence to practice.

Q. I am due to renew my EHS registration prior to April 1, 2017. Do I have to complete the current EHS requirements?

Yes. You must be currently registered in good standing with EHS on March 31, 2017, to be eligible to become licensed by the College. The normal EHS re-registration requirements are in place until then.

Please ensure your contact information is current with EHS. We suggest you log into your account with EHS to ensure that your username and password are correct, and to update your information as required. You can access the login screen at <https://ehs.in1touch.org/login.html> .

If you are aware of paramedic colleagues that are not receiving these updates, please advise them to contact EHS to update their contact information.

If you need help updating your information, please contact Patricia Togni at Patricia.Togni@novascotia.ca .

Q. My registration with EHS lapsed within the 12 months prior to April 1, 2017. Will I be able to register with the College for April 1, 2017?

If your registration has lapsed, contact EHS as soon as possible to determine your eligibility to be registered as an active paramedic with EHS.

Only paramedics with an active registration with EHS on March 31, 2017, are eligible to complete the online registration form and pay the fee to be licensed by the College of Paramedics.

Paramedics who do not have a current registration with EHS by March 31, 2017, will not be able to practice in Nova Scotia as of April 1, 2017. They will instead, be required, to contact the College of Paramedics to determine their eligibility for registration and licensing.

Q. I am a student and will be a new applicant after April 1 2017, What do I need to take to become licensed to practice in NS?

The Paramedic Regulations outline the requirements for new applications to register and become licensed to practice in Nova Scotia after April 1, 2017.

The application process will be determined by the College and posted on the College of Paramedics of Nova Scotia website when launched.

Q. Will I have to complete Continuing Medical Education (CME) Credits after April 1, 2017 and can I use any current credits I have completed before April 1 2017?

As of April 1, 2017, the College of Paramedics will take over the responsibility to set Continuing Medical Education requirements (CME).

The College plans to move to annual licensing. This may impact the timeline for obtaining CME credits. The ability to use your existing CME credits will depend on the CME credit requirements and completion time frame that will be set by the Council of the College of Paramedics.

Q. What about professional liability insurance?

All practicing paramedics, registered by the College of Paramedics of Nova Scotia, are required to have professional liability insurance to practice in the province.

Paramedics employed by Emergency Medical Care Inc. (EMC) or the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) do not need to purchase liability insurance as they are covered under their employer's plan. You may wish to buy supplemental professional liability insurance, but it is not required.

If you are not employed by EMC Inc. or the NSHA, you will be required to obtain your own professional liability insurance, or provide written confirmation from your employer that you are covered under their liability insurance plan.

The registration form will ask you to identify whether you are employed by EMC or NSHA, and if you are not, further questions will be asked to confirm that you hold professional liability insurance.

Q When will members of the Council of the College of Paramedics be announced?

We anticipate government will appoint the members of the Council of the College of Paramedics in early March. We will send an update including the names of Council members once this occurs.

Q. When will the College of Paramedics website be available and how do I get answers to questions until that time?

We are in the process of developing the College of Paramedic website. It will be available mid- February 2017. We will send a message to all members when it is launched. The website will contain Frequently Asked Questions, contact information and updates.

We understand that this is a time of transition and that you may have questions. If you need additional information, clarification or have questions, please contact Bud Avery, Manager, Paramedic Regulatory Affairs, Emergency Health Services at Bud.Avery@novascotia.ca or by phone at 902-424-2774.