



Report To:	Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board
From:	Robert Smith, Chief of Paramedic Services
Date:	February 28, 2019
Re:	Deployment Plan – Issue Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Service Board with background and perspective pertaining to the development and issuance of the Paramedic Services Deployment Plan.

Background

Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Paramedic Services is legislatively responsible to have in place a Deployment Plan. It is a living document that outlines strategies designed to provide paramedic service to our communities within the physical and fiscal resources of Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB.

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board Paramedic Services has developed this 6th version of the Deployment Plan to provide direction, guidelines and rationale to the Central Ambulance Communications Centres (CACC) who are responsible for Paramedic call assignment and balanced emergency coverage within the service's response area.

Currently, Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Paramedic Service is subject to dispatching by three separate communication centres, located in Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins. This is a unique design as no other services are dispatched by 3 centres.

The Deployment Plan resides for public consumption on the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Website, in the [Paramedic Services Policies and Procedures G.1.8.](#)

Deployment Plan Coverage

The Deployment Plan is designed to capture several factors related to the operations of the Paramedic Service. Beyond just a tool to covers staffing levels, this document

captures integration with allied agencies, strategies for improved response capacity, methods for accessing increased levels of care, and management of interfacility needs.

DSB Responsibility

Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Paramedic Service is responsible to design and ensure an effective staffing/deployment model, including on-site and on-call coverage, and to monitor balanced emergency coverage in order to ensure the approved staffing, coverage model and response capacity is maintained.

Superintendent staff are required to work cooperatively with the Central Ambulance Communication Centre (CACC) Supervisory teams to manage deployment issues of both public and internal concern. Paramedic Superintendents shall notify the appropriate CACC of any known or anticipated changes in resource deployment or availability. Once notified of these changes, it is required for the CACC to modify booking practices to reflect the revised deployment resource levels.

Managing Interfacility Patient Movements

The Paramedic Service Deployment Plan specifically sets out processes for the transfer of patients between health care facilities and into such facilities from residential facilities in the community. Transfers are prioritized by the Communications Centre staff, based upon triaging tools put in place by the Ministry of Health and Long term Care. The Deployment Plan specifies assignment of these interfacility calls in the following manner:

Non-urgent transfers:

The evolution of regionalized health care has resulted in the increased requirement to have patients travel to tertiary care/diagnostic centres in larger communities. Non-urgent transfers impact on emergency response capacity and response times, and so mitigation strategies have been put in place. The strategies limit when such work can be assigned, they require Superintendent approval, they require consideration of alternative transportation resources, and they require consideration of balanced coverage within all communities.

Urgent and Emergent transfers:

The previously described regionalization of health care includes centralizing of centres for more acute care of patients, including advanced diagnostics. The desire by the medical community to have patients given immediate access to such care and diagnostics impacts on community safety. To this end, the Paramedic Service Deployment Plan requires that urgent and emergent patient movements be managed through the Province's Air Ambulance system primarily, and the DSB's Paramedic Service be considered a secondary resource. This design would help maintain emergency coverage for the communities.

Return to Readiness

Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB's Paramedic Service Deployment Plan is written to ensure that when resources have completed any response, the capacity to return to a response ready state is managed as efficiently as possible. To this end, the deployment plan precludes Paramedics being held out of their deployed communities for extended periods of time.

Conclusion

The newest version of the Paramedic Service Deployment Plan is designed to focus on the service's role as a public safety agency with a primary role to provide emergency response to our communities. The interfacility movement of non-urgent patients is a function that has been absorbed by appropriately staff resources and funded accordingly by those agencies who utilize them. Interfacility movement of move acute patients can be managed by Paramedic Services secondarily to those agencies designed and funded to move these patients.

The Deployment Plan will manage patients in a manner that addresses needs in an effective and efficient manner, one that will ensure safety and responsibility are maintained.