

# Community Paramedicine



According to Rural Policy Research Institute and Stratis Health, 5% of patients account for 25% of emergency department visits in the U.S. and are known as super-utilizers (South Carolina Community Paramedic Advisory Committee, 2018). About 44% of this specific population lives in rural areas in Arkansas (Arkansas Department of Health, 2020). Living in rural areas where clinics, resources, and health care is limited; increases one's stress and likelihood of using emergency services as primary care resources. This issue can be avoidable if alternative options are available. Much of our rural population has complex health issues that are exacerbated by social, mental, and/or physical limitations that inhibit their ability to manage their conditions. This leads to over-utilization of ER services, exacerbations of health concerns, and eventually, hospitalization (South Carolina Community Paramedic Advisory Committee, 2018). Due to the lack of resources and support, this patient population needs an alternative solution.

**Community paramedicine** can target this population by providing support, resources, and improving patient outcomes. Once a patient is identified by the hospital, health care provider, or EMS, a referral for community paramedicine can be obtained. Community Paramedics make regular home visits to help the patient improve their health, identify concerns, provide medication education, educate on symptom management and lifestyle changes, and provides referrals or resources to primary care physicians, as needed (South Carolina Community Paramedic Advisory Committee, 2018). These visits can be conducted in the home, on the phone, or via telehealth and can help with health concerns, social determinants, and provide any necessary resources (The South Carolina Community Paramedic Advisory Committee, Abbeville County EMS, 2018). Prevention and health education are key factors in improving overall health outcomes, readmission rates, and financial burdens and our community paramedicine program strives to achieve just that.

**Contact Us:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Medical Services  
Community Paramedicine for Stroke**

**Jon Weigt, RN**

**Email:** [Jonathan.p.weigt@arkansas.gov](mailto:Jonathan.p.weigt@arkansas.gov)

**\*Referrals can be sent through your current PULSARA installment. For more information contact Chris Moline at: [chris.moline@pulsara.com](mailto:chris.moline@pulsara.com)**

## Benefits

- Reduction in hospital readmissions
- Decrease Mortality
- Decrease Emergency room congestion
- Improve overall health outcomes

## Paramedics Perform

- Assessments (Clinical, food security, transportation, behavioral, social, safety, environmental, etc.)
- Blood glucose monitoring & education
- Blood pressure monitoring & education
- Carry selected BLS & ALS supplies, equipment, & medications
- Complete medication reconciliation
- Consult & refer to health care services, physicians, clinics, & others
- Provide patient education
- Refer to community & social resources

