

MARKET SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM

**Report of the Market Supplement Review
Committee**

Paramedic

March 26, 2014

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Market Supplement Program is to ensure that Saskatchewan health care employers can attract and retain the employees required to provide appropriate health care services to the people of Saskatchewan.

This program is designed to address specific skill shortages by use of a market supplement to attract and/or retain qualified employees. The program is designed to ensure that temporary market supplements respond to valid labour market criteria to address recruitment/retention pressures.

OVERVIEW

The Market Supplement Review Committee (MSRC) reviewed updated documentation submitted in the annual review process regarding the market supplement for the Paramedic classification. The initial market supplement report was released by the Market Supplement Review Committee August 6, 2002 and implemented on October 16, 2002. The market supplement rate of pay for Paramedics was increased in February 2006 through the adjudication process as outlined in the agreed to Market Supplement Letters of Understanding between SAHO and Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan (HSAS).

This latest report is to be considered as part of the on-going review of the market supplement process for this classification.

There were six health regions that reported to this analysis on Paramedics. Paramedics are members of HSAS.

Role of a Paramedic:

Paramedics provide intervention services to those clients requiring Emergency Medical Services (EMS). These interventions have been demonstrated to be life saving and significantly impact patient comfort and outcome. Paramedics are able to provide the following:

- *Pain control through the administration of narcotics.*
- *Stabilization of severe respiratory distress.*
- *Diuresis of Congestive Heart Failure patients*
- *Full ACLS resuscitation equivalent to that performed in the Emergency Department.*
- *Twelve lead ECG interpretation*
- *Cardiac pacing*

A number of health regions in Saskatchewan utilize private ambulance services. This report does not include information from those employers.

Qualifications:

There are multiple levels of EMS practitioners in Saskatchewan. To apply to the Paramedic program, these practitioners must have two years experience as an EMT. The Paramedic training program consists of thirteen weeks of training.

The most comprehensive EMS practitioner in Saskatchewan is the Paramedic.

Information regarding budgeted positions and vacancies is provided in the following table:

Table 1 – Paramedics – Budgeted and Vacant Positions (March, 2014)

Health Regions	Number of Budgeted Positions (As of March, 2014)		Number of Vacant Budgeted Positions (As of March, 2014)		% Vacancy	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
Cypress	2	1	1	1	50%	100%
Heartland	0	2	0	0	0	0
Prairie North	2	0	0	0	0	0
Regina Qu'Appelle	52	0	3	0	5.7%	0
Sun Country	5	0	1	0	20%	0
Sunrise	2	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	63	3	5	1	7.9%	33.3%

ANALYSIS

The MSRC discussed the Labour Market Criteria as guided by the Market Supplement Program framework.

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPACTS: *(Employers were asked to provide information that addresses current service delivery impacts resulting from staff shortages, potential staff short term service delivery impacts, potential long term service delivery impacts and options for alternative service delivery models).*

No service delivery issues related to recruitment and retention were reported by the participating employers.

VACANCY RATE ANALYSIS: *(Employers were requested to provide information about the frequency and timing of vacancy occurrences {i.e., seasonal vacancies; do the vacancies always follow an event; etc.} and to identify trends that may affect recruitment/retention efforts).*

Five permanent full time vacancies were reported from this review. .

Most vacancies reported by employers are recently vacated positions and recruitment efforts have been initiated by employers.

Table 2 – Paramedics – Budgeted and Vacant Position Comparisons (2002 to 2014)

Paramedic Classification	Number of Budgeted Positions		Number of Vacant Budgeted Positions		% Vacancy	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
2002 Totals	34	0	6	0	17.6%	0%
2003 Totals	37	0	11	0	29.7%	0%
2004 Totals	34	0	7	0	20.5%	0%
2007 Totals	35	0	3	0	8.5%	0%
2008 Totals	37	0	0	0	0%	0%
2009 Totals	40	2	0	0	0%	0%
2010 Totals	42	3	0	0	0%	0%
2011 Totals	45	3	0	0	0%	0%
2012 Totals	53	2	0	0	0%	0%
2013 Totals	62	2	3	0	4.8%	0%
2014 Totals	63	3	5	1	7.9%	33.3%

*Disclaimer: Data reported in Table 1 and/or Table 2 may be as a result of different employers reporting year to year.

TURNOVER RATES: *(Employers were asked to provide local analysis of reasons for leaving and trends that may be emerging. They were also asked to provide annual turnover loss of employees to other competitor employers} ratio to the existing staff complement {budgeted positions} in the given occupation.)*

Of the regions that track and report turnover, the following data is reported:

- Last 12 months – 4 (2 change in occupation, 1 other employment, 1 unknown)
- Previous 12 months – 2

RECRUITMENT ISSUE ANALYSIS: *(Employers were asked to provide information such as length of recruitment times, training investments, licensing issues, supply and demand issues, etc., as well as information that would identify trends that may affect recruitment and/or retention efforts).*

Most employers report minimal recruiting and retention efforts due to lack of vacancies. One employer reports on-going recruiting efforts to ensure a supply of candidates when a vacancy occurs.

SALARY MARKET CONDITIONS: *(Employers were asked to identify situations where their salary levels are lower than other employers that they would expect to recruit employees from or other employers that recruit their employees. This may be local, provincial, regional, national or international depending on the occupation group and traditional recruitment relationships. Cost of living considerations may or may not be appropriate to factor into market salary comparisons).*

The MSRC reports the following market conditions for Paramedics:

- Saskatchewan health regions – Minimum \$30.800/hour, maximum \$37.626/hour, 5 steps effective April 1, 2012.
- Alberta health regions – Maximum \$42.90/hour, 9 steps effective April 1, 2013.
- British Columbia health regions – Maximum \$38.69/hour, effective April 1, 2013.
- Manitoba health regions – City of Winnipeg (top level – Emergency Paramedic II) – Maximum \$39.85/hour effective April 1, 2013.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Considering the labour market criteria under the provincial framework, the Market Supplement Review Committee makes the following conclusions:

- No service delivery issues related to recruitment and retention were reported by the health regions.
- There were five permanent full time vacancies reported by Saskatchewan health regions.
- Minimal turnover was reported by the health regions from this review.

Having reviewed the employer information and considering the labour market criteria defined by the market supplement framework, the Market Supplement Review Committee recommends:

- To maintain the current market supplement for the Paramedic classification.

APPENDIX A

Market Supplement Consideration Request – Paramedics

Employer Respondents

1. Cypress Health Region
2. Heartland Health Region
3. Prairie North Health Region
4. Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region
5. Sun Country Health Region
6. Sunrise Health Region