



March 3, 2025

## RE: Announcing RPPEO Spring 2025 CME

Dear Paramedics,

The Regional Paramedic Program for Eastern Ontario (RPPEO) is pleased to introduce the **Spring 2025 Continuing Medical Education (CME) course: The Competency Challenge: Mastering Rare but Essential Skills**

Beginning on **March 31, 2025**, paramedics will have access to the Spring 2025 CME online module via MedicLEARN. This hybrid CME emphasizes hands-on skill development, focusing on critical but infrequently used interventions that remain essential for safe, effective patient care.

Advanced Care Paramedics (ACPs) certified by RPPEO and Primary Care Paramedics (PCPs) from participating paramedic services are invited to participate in this high-impact, skills-focused session.

### *What You'll Learn*

#### **Main Topics**

- Skill Mastery & Critical Interventions: This CME prioritizes practicing essential skills that paramedics may not use frequently in the field but must be prepared to perform with confidence and accuracy when required.
- Cognitive Practice & Visualization: We are introducing cognitive skills training with a guest lecturer who specializes in mental visualization as a tool for improving paramedic performance.

#### **Key Skill Areas**

- Advanced Airway Management – Securing the airway, confirming placement, troubleshooting.
- CVAD Access – Safe handling and medication administration through central venous access devices.
- Cardioversion & Pacing – Mastering the technical execution of synchronized cardioversion and transcutaneous pacing.
- Magill Forceps Use – Enhancing proficiency in foreign body airway obstruction management.



### *What's New: Reintroducing Evaluation*

For this session, RPPEO is reintroducing an evaluation component during the practical skills portion of CME. This is a formative, supportive process—not a test.

#### **Why?**

- RPPEO provides training and evaluation to support paramedics in maintaining competency across their full scope of practice. Our role is to create the opportunity for paramedics to practice, refresh skills, and receive feedback in a structured, safe environment.
- Paramedics are responsible for their own competency. While RPPEO facilitates training, it is each paramedic's duty to maintain proficiency in the skills they are authorized to perform.
- Medical Directors delegate controlled medical acts only to paramedics they believe are competent. This underscores the importance of maintaining proficiency in all areas, even those used less frequently.
- Data show that many paramedics in our catchment area have not performed high-acuity skills in years. This CME is an opportunity to identify and address any gaps in practice.

#### **How?**

- Paramedics will complete skill sheets as you practise in class and have them reviewed by the Facilitator once practise is completed.
- Instructors will observe paramedics performing skills in a structured environment, providing feedback and guidance.
- This evaluation is formative—it is intended to reinforce skill retention and personal accountability. It is not punitive, but a valuable opportunity to strengthen and refine your practice.

#### **Your Role in Maintaining Competency**

- RPPEO provides CME, feedback, Medical Advisories, MedicNEWS, Clinical Bulletins, and oversight from OMC, but paramedics must take an active role in keeping their skills current.
- If you have not recently used a skill—whether it's medication administration, airway management, or high-acuity procedures—this CME is an opportunity to refresh, practice, and reflect on where additional learning may be beneficial.



REGIONAL PARAMEDIC PROGRAM  
FOR EASTERN ONTARIO

SERVING TOGETHER

### **Completion and Certification**

Participation in Spring 2025 CME is mandatory for ACPs and contributes to annual Maintenance of Certification requirements. PCP participation is voluntary but encouraged.

All Spring CME participants must complete the online module before attending a classroom session to ensure they are fully prepared for hands-on practice and discussion.

For certification and continuing education requirements, visit [RPPEO.ca](http://RPPEO.ca).

Your paramedic service will coordinate scheduling for the in-person practical component, where you'll have the chance to apply your learning through case studies, scenarios, and structured skills practice.

We look forward to seeing you in this engaging, hands-on CME experience—designed to build skill mastery and personal accountability in your practice.

For the Continuing Education Team,  
Ben de Mendonca  
Manager, Quality & Patient Safety

---

**Ottawa**  
2475 Don Reid Drive  
Ottawa, ON K1H 1E2  
613-737-7228  
1-877-587-7736

**Kingston**  
Unit 400-1471 John Counter Blvd  
Kingston, ON K7M 8S8  
613-737-7228  
1-877-587-7736