



cooperation and working together  
for health gain and social well being in border areas



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*A project supported by the European Union's  
INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the  
Special EU Programmes Body.*

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## The Community Paramedicine (CP) Project

The National Ambulance Service in the Republic of Ireland, the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, and the Scottish Ambulance Service, have been collaborating to develop a community paramedicine project which has just been awarded EU INTERREG VA funding in four pilot sites. This project will improve the lives of patients in border and rural areas. This funding has been secured by the Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT) cross border partnership for the development of a range of cross border acute hospital services.

Community Paramedicine allows Paramedics/Advanced Paramedics (HCCP Registered Paramedics for Scotland & Northern Ireland positions or PHECC Registered Advanced Paramedics for NW/NE Ireland positions) to operate in expanded roles to provide routine healthcare services and help to improve rural emergency medical services. Being locally based, Community Paramedics can build closer relationships with patients, local community teams and GP practices. In addition to providing community paramedic training to eligible individuals, the project will fund the purchase of four rapid response vehicles for the pilot areas.

The Community Paramedicine project will measure the degree to which Paramedics/Advanced Paramedics (HCCP Registered Paramedics for Scotland & Northern Ireland positions or PHECC Registered Advanced Paramedics for NW/NE Ireland positions) working in an expanded role in their community can help improve health system integration, efficiency, and/or fill identified health care needs. This project will not displace other healthcare providers, but will fill unmet local need by utilising paramedic skills and availability. It is planned that data will be gathered to demonstrate the impact of the project on health care efficacy, cost effectiveness, patient care and health system resources. The pilot sites will be closely monitored in partnership with local primary care providers and other appropriate health care partners. The pilot sites will be in Inishowen and Monaghan.

### **The Community Paramedicine Project has three key objectives:**

**Objective 1:** Provide additional training to existing Paramedics/Advanced Paramedics (HCCP Registered Paramedics for Scotland & Northern Ireland positions or PHECC Registered Advanced Paramedics for NW/NE Ireland positions) to prepare them to practice as Community Paramedics.





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**Objective 2:** Demonstrate cost effectiveness of care provided by Community Paramedics.

**Objective 3:** Demonstrate that Community Paramedics can safely and effectively provide care and that unnecessary ambulance journeys to emergency departments and hospital readmissions will be reduced.

The Project will target specific patient populations in remote and rural areas / border areas of Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland with the pilots sites located in:

- West Coast of Scotland (Argyle & Bute)
- North West of Ireland (Donegal)
- North East of Ireland (Monaghan)
- Northern Ireland

The Project will work closely with primary care teams in those areas.

**Next step:**

A recruitment process will commence in the coming weeks and will be advertised on [www.hse.ie/jobs](http://www.hse.ie/jobs)

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