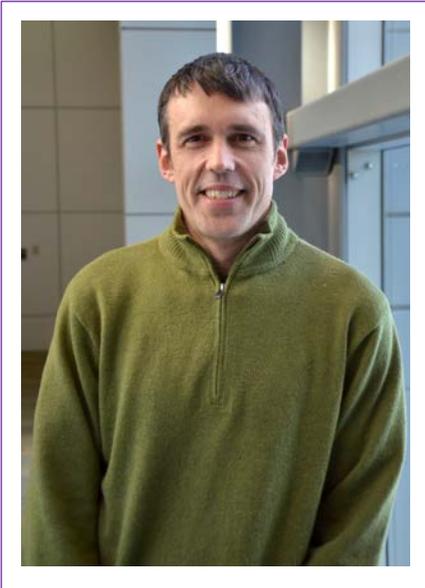


Ian Blanchard



Biography

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) systems have undergone a rapid development over the last four decades, both in terms of the sophistication of the system, and the scope of practice of paramedics. Unfortunately, the science informing this change has not kept pace, especially in patient-oriented research.

Ian Blanchard has worked in EMS systems in Canada and the United Kingdom for twenty years, and is presently a paramedic researcher with Alberta Health Services (AHS) EMS, the provincial co-chair of the AHS EMS Research Committee, and the immediate past co-chair of the Canadian Emergency Medical Services Research Network - Réseau Canadien de Recherche en Soins Préhospitaliers (CERN-RCRSP). He is also an Adjunct

Assistant Professor with the Department of Community Health Sciences, in the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary and a member of the O'Brien Institute for Public Health. Most recently, he has become a PhD student with the Department of Critical Care, in the Cumming School of Medicine, under the supervision of Dr. Christopher Doig and Dr. Eddy Lang.

Mr. Blanchard's broad career goals are to create a productive research program in Alberta EMS that has a particular focus on patient-oriented research, to build capacity in the paramedic profession to lead and collaborate on EMS research, to promote the tenets of evidence-based medicine in EMS and improve the ability of paramedics to critically appraise the research literature, and to improve the validity and reliability of EMS and paramedic data, especially in patient-prioritized outcomes. Ian can be reached at ian.blanchard@ahs.ca.

Project Summary

An Assessment of the Impact of Time to Paramedic Treatment on Patient Outcomes in the Alberta Emergency Medical Services System: Building a Comprehensive Database and Identifying Patient Priorities in Outcomes.

EMS is the safety net of the health care system; responding to myriad conditions from cardiac arrest to assistance in lifting patients who have fallen. EMS systems around the world, including Alberta, are in crisis. Delays in offloading EMS patients at the hospital due to limited bed space and gridlock in emergency departments mean paramedics are continuing to care for their patients in hospital hallways, instead of being available to respond to the next emergency call.

Solving hospital capacity is not a quick fix, but in the meantime the EMS system must still be available for emergencies, especially conditions or injuries that require time-sensitive treatments. Very little patient-oriented research has been conducted to understand the optimal paramedic treatment, how quickly this treatment should be applied, and to whom.

This research proposal will take an important first step at understanding how a patient's condition and the timing and type of treatment paramedics provide, impacts their health outcome from the emergency. This information will be critical to health system leaders to determine to what extent, if any, patients are being put at risk from delays in offloading patients at the hospital or non-transportation of patients to the hospital. In addition, it will assist the EMS system in getting the right care, to the right patient, at the right time by creating a database that links EMS and health system data, testing this database to ensure research-quality data, and by engaging EMS patients to determine the most important health outcomes.