

NOTES

If you are interested in a home visit or have any questions concerning Transylvania County EMS or CCPP, please do not hesitate to contact us at (828) 884-3108, Ext. 7, or SeniorFriends@TransylvaniaCounty.org.

Transylvania County EMS
155 Public Safety Way
Brevard, NC 28712
(828) 884-3108 Ext 7

Community Care Paramedic Program

“Caring for our Community”



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What is the Community Care Paramedic Program (CCPP)?

With the increasing cost and demand for health care, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) agencies across the country are thinking outside the box, and seeking ways to decrease cost and better serve their communities. One emerging practice found to be helpful is the creation of Community Care Paramedic Programs (CCPP). These Programs have been initiated all over the United States. Not only have these programs resulted in a decrease in medical costs, but they have improved the health of those participating in the areas where they have been utilized. Currently, there are several EMS agencies in North Carolina utilizing CCPPs. The programs are created based on the specific community needs and available resources. With the diversity of every state, county, and community no two CCPPs will be the same.

Transylvania County Emergency Medical Services (TCEMS) has chosen to revamp and expand a current program, Senior Friends, to focus on better serving our community, and decreasing health care costs. Senior Friends consists of, but is not limited to, home visits, home safety checks, and patient education. To revamp this program, patients are not limited to the senior citizens of the county. CCPP will include any patient needing this service.

Community Information:

Thank you for your interest in the TCEMS Community Care Paramedic Program! Our CCPP designed to educate the public on emergency response and procedures and injury prevention at no cost. The program is initiated with a home visit from TCEMS Paramedics. During this visit, our staff will discuss important health and safety issues. Our visits are individually tailored to meet your needs, and may include any of the following topics:

- Accessibility outside and inside the residence
- Potential hazards inside and outside
- Update 911 information
- Organization of medications
- Completion of information form
- Installation of smoke detectors
- Discussion of emergency procedures
- Discussion of the role of EMS in the community
- What to expect in an emergency
- Advanced Directives (Living Will, DNR, etc.)
- Resources available
- Motivational coaching
- Vital sign monitoring

The goal of CCPP is to improve an already high standard of patient care for the citizens of Transylvania County. We do this by increasing awareness on how to provide and maintain a safe environment. CCPP also seeks to reduce the cost of patient care, by decreasing repeat hospital admissions, and informing patients about community programs. Possible patients may include, but are not limited to, COPD, CHF, diabetes, high risk falls, high risk of hospital admission, and lack of family support.

Home Safety Assessment:

Purpose: The home safety assessment is designed to provide a detailed walk-through of the client's home, identify safety hazards, and make recommendations as needed.

Procedure: The Paramedics will look at many factors that have been shown to cause injuries to members of the home, especially the very young and elderly. With a specially designed checklist, the assessment begins at the driveway or walkway, and ends at the back yard. Note, this assessment is not a mechanical inspection of the home and is not designed to look at the safety of electrical wiring, hot water heaters, plumbing, or any other mechanical features of the house. Rather, it is designed to focus on safety issues, such as trip hazards, kitchen safety, adequate lighting in the home and in walking areas, grab bars and/or lift handles, if applicable, and other notable safety issues.

A CCPP Paramedic does not perform the role of a physical therapist, and therefore, will not be analyzing the client's gait or movement, or advising about exercises or physical therapy. If a CCPP Paramedic notices the client is having difficulty moving around, they may make the necessary referrals to organizations that can provide walkers, canes, and other mobility devices, and also link them with their primary care physician, so that they can be referred to a physical therapist. If hazards are found, the CCPP Paramedic will recommend changes that need to be made and, if needed, refer the client to the appropriate community resources that can then provide further assistance.