

BACKGROUND

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Ministry of Health
BC Ambulance Service
BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre

BC AMBULANCE SERVICE INFANT TRANSPORT TEAM

The ITT (Infant Transport Team) was formed by the BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) in 1976 to provide timely emergency medical care to neo-natal, pediatric and high-risk obstetrics patients from across British Columbia. The ITT provides expert care and transport to patients under 16 years old requiring a higher level of care.

Call Volume/Composition

- The ITT responds to an average of 2,900 calls per year, 2,100 inter-facility transports and 800 street calls, compared to approximately 200 per year when the team was formed 30 years ago.
- The ITT has responded to approximately 40,000 calls since its inception.
- The ITT also transports approximately 400 high-risk obstetric patients to BC Women's Hospital every year.
- The team will travel to any destination in British Columbia, weather permitting, and also serves Whitehorse, Alberta, Ontario and the U.S.A. on occasion.

Response Vehicles and Aircraft

- The ITT utilizes two helicopters and three fixed-wing airplanes that are specially equipped and under contract to the BCAS.
- In addition to the Vancouver-based aircraft, BCAS is able to draw on numerous aircraft located throughout the province as needed.
- Four ground ambulances are dedicated solely for use by the ITT and are outfitted with specialized equipment to care for young patients.

Staffing and Training

- Approximately 20 advance care paramedics with between 10-33 years experience work on the ITT.
- In a 12-hour shift, an ITT paramedic will typically be involved in two transports with one usually involving aircraft.
- All ITT paramedics have completed a specific training program focused on providing care to children to learn advanced skills such as intubation, IVs and use of a wide variety of monitors, ventilators, IV pumps and medications. They are also certified primary care paramedics with training in cardiac, respiratory, trauma, anaphylaxis, seizure and diabetic problems for adults and pediatrics.

Technology

- Emergency medical equipment such as monitors, incubators and ventilators have become more accurate, lighter and smaller compared to when the ITT began 30 years ago, leading to substantially improved patient outcomes.
- ITT aircraft have enough equipment to tend to two acute care patients, 2,000 litres of medical oxygen, air pumps and electrical outlets. The ambulances have built-in air pumps, high-intensity lighting and a 1,000 watt inverter to ensure battery levels on equipment are always fully charged.

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