

EXPANSION OF PARAMEDIC PLACEMENTS AND AUTONOMOUS INTRAVENOUS EDUCATION AT HUMBER RIVER HEALTH

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DESCRIPTION

Humber River Health (HRH), as one of Canada’s prominent regional acute care facilities, consistently accommodates a substantial number of placements for nursing and non-nursing students throughout the Greater Toronto Area. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a temporary suspension of paramedic placements at HRH. In 2022, HRH was able to reintroduce paramedic placements through collaboration with internal stakeholders. These placements were sourced from various academic institutions, as well as Toronto Paramedic Services. Notably, we provided training for 252 paramedics from the Toronto Paramedic Services, spanning from July 2023 to July 2024.

OBJECTIVE

To expand the capacity of paramedic placements and delivery of Autonomous Intravenous education at HRH.

ACTIONS TAKEN

The Student Affairs Department at HRH liaised with Toronto Paramedic Services regarding paramedic placements and learning objectives. Student Affairs also collaborated internally with leadership from the Emergency Department (ED) and Perioperative Department (Peri-Op) to discuss the facilitation of paramedic placements. The ED and Peri-Op Departments provided placement slots weekly for paramedics to gain the knowledge, decision-making, and psychomotor skills required to provide care at the Autonomous Intravenous (IV) level. These high volume departments allowed paramedics with frequent opportunities to attempt IV insertions, meeting the requirement for each paramedic to achieve a minimum of 20 successful IV attempts.

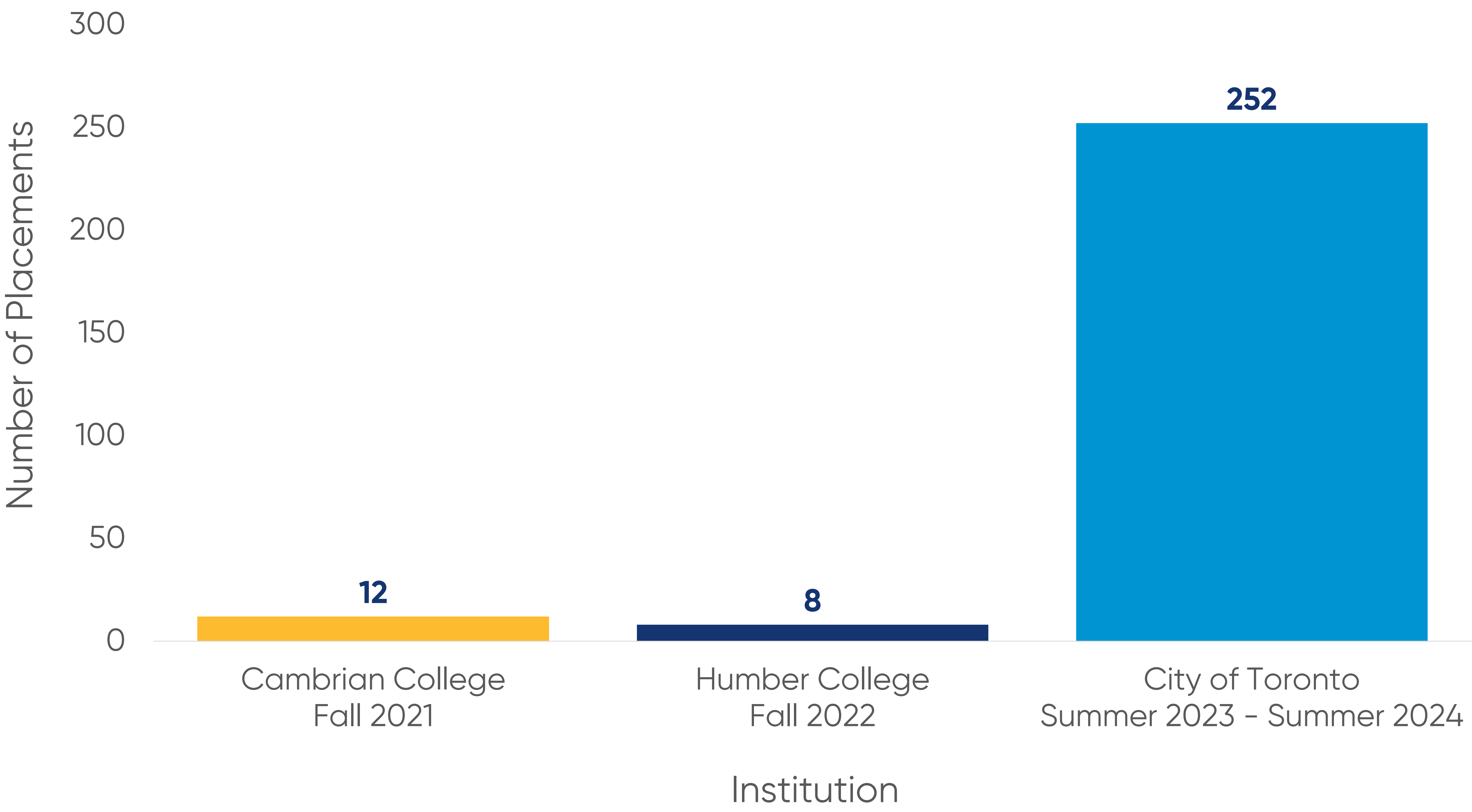


Figure 1. Number of Paramedic Student Placements at HRH From 2021 to 2024.

“... Having the opportunity to practice IVs at HRH has given me a huge boost in confidence with this skill... The staff and patients were very welcoming and that fostered a positive learning environment.”

“I did over 26 IVs in one day and it was an excellent way to foster the muscle memory.”

“I felt really well supported while at my Clinical at HRH. The staff made every effort to provide learning opportunities for me... When we ran out of IV patients in Pre-Op, we headed down to Emergency, where the staff there were very welcoming and let me practice more IVs”

Figure 2. Feedback from paramedic students after completing placement at HRH.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

During their clinical rotation at HRH, the paramedic Autonomous IV learners met their learning objectives, such as selecting and preparing IV cannulation equipment, identifying approved peripheral IV cannulation sites using appropriate landmarking, and demonstrating discontinuation of an IV.

These placement opportunities also led to a positive experience for departments involved who noted placements:

- Strengthened collaborative relationships between nurses and EMS paramedics
- Increased community engagement, which facilitated seamless continuity of care.

LESSONS LEARNED

By enhancing capacity of paramedic clinical placements at HRH, the organization is equipped to continue supporting new cohorts of paramedic placements, while enabling Autonomous IV education.

