PMH 2019: A robust framework for primary care reform that meets the needs of Canadian communities

Download the full vision document at patientsmedicalhome.ca.

CARE COORDINATION AND PATIENT SELF-MANAGEMENT SUPPORT TO ENSURE QUALITY OF CARE

IMPROVED ACCESS TO CARE THROUGH INTERPROFESSIONAL TEAMS

The Patient’s Medical Home (PMH) vision provides guidance for governments and policy-makers on how to structure a primary health care system that is best suited to meet the evolving needs of Canadians.
PRINCIPLES OF THE NEW VISION
PMH 2019 is broken down into three areas:
• Foundations: supporting structures that have to be in place to enable the optimal functioning of a PMH
• Functions: key elements of care provided by the PMH allowing it to realize its benefits
• Ongoing development: essential to advancing and sustaining the PMH vision on an ongoing basis

A VISION THAT WORKS
A recent case study of two PMH aligned clinics in Alberta that use a mostly capitation based alternative funding model estimated the two practices have saved the provincial health care system approximately $120 million in total over the past 10 years compared with similar, traditionally funded clinics.
Also, in a literature review the College of Family Physicians of Canada conducted looking at the benefits of aligning with the PMH vision:
• 61% of the relevant studies (19 out of 31) revealed neutral or positive effects on system costs
• 73% of the relevant articles (22 out of 30) found that patients who received team based care reported having greater access to care with reduced wait times, enhanced care coordination, and better delivery of patient centred care
• 83% of the relevant studies (40 out of 48) indicated greater patient and provider satisfaction
• An Alberta Primary Care Networks survey found 35% of patients who received care from physicians affiliated with interprofessional teams reported that team based care contributed to fewer emergency department visits and 30% reported fewer hospital admissions*

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE PMH?
• Visit patientsmedicalhome.ca to access information on evidence scans and find contact information for support from the CFPC and your provincial Chapter
• Invest in interprofessional teams with dedicated support for practice governance and quality improvement
• Ensure funding models incentivize patient centred care (e.g., through blended physician remuneration model)

The Patient’s Medical Home is a vision created by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC). The CFPC represents more than 38,000 members. It is the national professional organization responsible for establishing standards for the training, certification, and lifelong education of family physicians and it is the voice of family medicine in Canada.

*References for the studies mentioned in this section are available upon request.

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