BACKGROUND

Throughout Canada, primary care models are developing to support comprehensive patient-centered care linked to the vital role played by family physicians. Recent evidence shows that relationships built and strengthened over time between patients and their personal physicians contribute significantly to better health outcomes.1

The Patient’s Medical Home is a health care practice-based on the principles that: patients receive care from a personal physician; patients and their families are active partners in care; and the patient’s medical home provides a system of support to ensure that patients have access to needed care when they need it. The Patient’s Medical Home is a model of care that has been shown to improve health outcomes, increase patient satisfaction, and decrease health care costs.2

The Patient’s Medical Home is driven by the following principles: 1) to be patient-centered, 2) to ensure access to care, 3) to be comprehensive, and 4) to be economically sustainable.3

The Patient’s Medical Home is a model of care that is being adopted by family physicians and health planners across Canada. It is a comprehensive model of care that is designed to improve health outcomes and reduce health care costs.4

PRIORITY

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) has developed a Vision for Canada: Family Practice—The Patient’s Medical Home. The Patient’s Medical Home: A Vision for Canada, presented by the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) and sponsored by the Canadian Medical Association Foundation, was developed in 2010 and presents a vision of primary care that is patient-centered and economically sustainable.

RESULTS

1. The development and launch of A Vision for Canada, Family Practice—The Patient’s Medical Home

Objectives of the Patient’s Medical Home

• Every person in Canada will have the opportunity to be part of a family practice that serves as a Patient’s Medical Home for themselves and their family.
• Patient’s Medical Homes will produce the best possible health outcomes for the patient, the practice populations, and the communities they serve.
• Patient’s Medical Homes will reinforce the importance of the Four Principles of Family Medicine.1

2. The development of a five-year strategic plan to help promote and disseminate A Vision for Canada

Objectives of the Patient’s Medical Home

• The patient’s medical home, their access to needed care, their access to needed care, and their access to needed care.
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3. To serve as a resource for the following:
• Setting and reviewing policies and strategic priorities, and providing direction related to the Patient’s Medical Home
• Other stakeholders, including government, planners, policy makers, and funders
• Teaching and research environments for family medicine

4. The development and dissemination of best advice papers to accompany A Vision of Canada

The pillars represent the framework that supports a model of family practice focused on meeting patient and provider needs.

• Redefine the role of the family physician to meet patient needs
• Strengthen the coordination of care between primary care and specialists
• Improve access to care
• Increase patient satisfaction
• Improve health outcomes

CONCLUSION

Patients with chronic diseases who have the benefit of continuing care from a personal family physician have more cost-effective care and better outcomes.1 When adults have a medical home, their access to needed care, receipt of routine preventive services, and management of chronic conditions improve substantially.2 A Vision for Canada improves patient, family physicians, other health professionals, and their organizations across Canada.

The Patient's Medical Community

• The Patient’s Medical Home: A Vision for Canada, presented by the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) and sponsored by the Canadian Medical Association Foundation, was developed in 2010 and presents a vision of primary care that is patient-centered and economically sustainable.

www.cfpc.ca/A_Vision_for_Canada_abridged_version/

REFERENCES


3. To be patient-centered

4. To be strongly supported:

5. To be comprehensive

6. To be economically sustainable

7. The pillars represent the framework that supports a model of family practice focused on meeting patient and provider needs.