



The College of
Family Physicians
of Canada

Le Collège des
médecins de famille
du Canada

CFPC Vision Statement on Inter-Professional Care

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) believes that patients must be at the centre of health care.

The CFPC has agreed to the following Vision Statement on Inter-Professional Care:

- (i) All people in Canada will have access to a family practice/primary care setting that offers each person the opportunity to have his/her care provided by each of the following:**

A personal family doctor

and

A registered nurse and/or a nurse practitioner

- The above will work together to provide and/or ensure the provision of the full spectrum of primary health and medical care services for the patients of the practice.
- Every patient will benefit by having his/her own family doctor, as well as a registered nurse and/or nurse practitioner.

- (ii) Other health professionals, including pharmacists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dietitians, social workers, and physician or medical office assistants, may also be part of these practices.**

- This vision focuses on complementary roles for family physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, and other health professionals - not role substitution.
- The roles and responsibilities of each health professional who is part of a practice will be determined by the needs of the practice and community.
- To ensure timely access health professionals should:
 - (a) Be linked in formal arrangements with others in their family practice/primary care setting;
 - (b) Cultivate networks with other health professionals outside of this setting;and,

- (c) Have a clear understanding of the skills and knowledge of other professions and individuals in their family practice/primary care setting.
- (iii) In each practice setting the health and medical services will be provided with assurance for patients that each professional will practice within:**
 - (a) The legislated scope of practice for his/her profession; and,**
 - (b) The knowledge and skills each has personally acquired.**
- Overlapping scopes of practice provide opportunities for patients to benefit from the distinct strengths of individual health professionals who are each part of a practice team.
- Clear understanding of scopes of practice among team members can help guide which providers will deliver services to best meet patients' needs by providing timely quality care.
- (iv) Of critical importance, the Canadian healthcare system must ensure adequate health human resources, funding and other resources to support this vision.**

The CFPC believes that when family physicians and registered nurses bring their skills together, there is significant potential to increase access and to reduce waiting times for patients - with benefits to the whole system. The CFPC is committed to addressing further details related to this Vision and how it will be implemented across the country.