

The Social Justice Lens

The BC College of Family Physicians (BCCFP) is committed to social justice as defined in our values and strategic plan. Social justice is the pursuit and/or attainment of equity in society. It focuses on addressing the social determinants of health (SDH) and minimizing their negative effects on the health of an individual. The SDH refer to conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age¹. These include²: gender, sexuality, race, income, education, unemployment and job security, employment and working conditions, early childhood development, food insecurity, housing, social safety net, health services, indigenous status and disability.

We have adopted the Social Justice Lens, a tool developed by the Social Accountability Working Group of the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC), to help our Board of Directors, committees, working groups and members apply these principles to their work. Most work in family medicine already includes social justice at its core, and this tool helps make those implicit connections more explicit.

When to use the lens

Socially accountable care can be provided at three levels – micro, meso or macro (see below). The lens is designed to facilitate an ongoing dialogue around social justice and equity for high-level decisions made by your committee or working group at all three levels.

The Levels of Socially Accountable Care

- 1. Micro:** The clinical environment; encompasses both the individual family physician-patient relationship and the inter-professional, team-based care setting.



- 2. Meso:** The local community; the geographic context in which clinical and academic medical work are situated. Includes education, training and continuing professional development (CPD).



- 3. Macro:** The broader realm of policies and their impact on population and public health, where family physicians act as advocates for healthy public policy.



References

1. Wilkinson RG, Marmot MG, eds. *Social Determinants of Health: The Solid Facts*. 2nd ed. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2003.
2. Mikkonen J, Raphael D. *Social Determinants of Health: The Canadian Facts*. Toronto: York University, School of Health Policy and Management; 2010.