

The Role of Family Physicians in Home Care

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the CFPC's ePanel! We would like to ask you some questions about the role of family physicians in home care. For the purpose of this survey, home care is defined as: "...[a]n array of health and support services provided in the home, retirement communities, group homes, and other community settings to people with acute, chronic, palliative, or rehabilitative health care needs. Services offered through publicly funded home care programs include assessments, education, therapeutic interventions (nursing and rehabilitation), personal assistance with daily living activities, help with instrumental activities of daily living, and care respite and support." For more information, please see "Better Home Care: A National Action Plan", a joint effort by the CFPC, Canadian Home Care Association and the Canadian Nurses Association

Is your practice currently involved in provision of home care services to your patient population?

- Yes
- No

Please describe your practice's involvement in home care.

(check all that apply)

- Offering house calls as part of general practice
- Focused practice that solely offers home visits
- Hospice setting
- Supporting other health professionals in my team offering home visits
- Communicating with third party provider of home care services to patient
- Other, please specify _____

Are you personally involved, including supervising others, in provision of home care?

- Yes
- No

Please indicate why you don't currently provide home care.

(check all that apply)

- Remuneration is not sufficient
- Time consuming
- Safety concerns
- Lack of training during family medicine education
- I used to provide home care services, but stopped
- Do not see the value of home care
- This is outside of the scope of care I provide
- Other, please specify _____

What are the reasons that motivate you to provide home care to your patients?

(check all that apply)

- I find this work very rewarding
- Providing home care to patients is essential to the work of a comprehensive family physician
- Seeing patients in their own environment provides a deeper appreciation for their social and physical environment
- System-level benefits (decreased hospital admissions, improved patient experience, better outcomes, etc.)
- Providing home care meets the particular needs of the community I serve
- Other, please specify _____

What should be the role of family physicians in the delivery of home care services?

- No role – home care should be provided by other health professionals
- Limited role – family physicians should collaborate with other health professionals

- Primary role – family physicians are in the best position to lead this work with the support of teams
- Mandatory – All family physicians must provide home care as part of their comprehensive practice
- Other, please specify _____

If the CFPC offers more resources to members to support and enable home care, what might be meaningfully beneficial to you.

(check all that apply)

- No additional resources are necessary – resources are better spent elsewhere.
- Literature on outcomes generated by physician involvement in home care
- Mentorship/ networking opportunities to help support training in home care
- List of province-level resources / networks to enable home care work.
- Ensuring the provision of quality CPD that addresses caring for patients in their homes.
- Ensuring appropriate home care involvement is a part of family medicine postgraduate training Advocating for more home care specific resources with provincial/federal governments
- Other, please specify _____

Do you see a role for the CFPC in advocating for government policies that support delivery of better, more standardized home care across Canada?

- Should not be involved
- Should be a minor area of advocacy
- Should be a significant area of advocacy
- Should be a primary area of advocacy

In your opinion, what could be done to better support family physicians in delivering home care?

(check all that apply)

- Adequate remuneration for home care services (house calls, after-hours, etc.)
- Support and funding for interprofessional teams

- Support for interoperable Electronic Medical Records that support multiple points of access
- Better integration of primary care and community services
- Increased research/Quality Improvement opportunities related to home care
- Better awareness and connections to community services
- Improved support for informal caregivers to further enable their provision of care
- Expanded coverage of home care services under provincial insurance plans
- Other, please specify _____

Do you have any further comments on the role of family physicians in home care? Your input is appreciated and contributes to the CFPC's planning process.