



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.