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Practice

Primary Care in Alberta

Primary Care Networks

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*opportunities to move knowledge
to action*



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Value of Primary Care

Increasing Value for Money In The Canadian Health Care System: New Findings on the Contributions of Primary Care Services

Marcus J. Hollander, Helena Kadlec,
Ramsay Hamdi and Angela Tessaro

Healthcare Quarterly, 12(4) 2009: 30-42



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Alberta Primary Care Networks

- **Primary Care Networks (PCNs) are part of the Alberta Primary Care Initiative (PCI) Program**
 - PCI established in the 2003 Master Agreement between Alberta Health & Wellness, Alberta Health Services, and the Alberta Medical Association.
- **PCNs are voluntary partnerships between groups of local family physicians and Alberta Health Services**



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Alberta Primary Care Networks

- **Goals for PCNs include:**

- Increasing the proportion of Albertans with ready-access to primary care
- Managing access to appropriate round-the-clock primary care services
- Increasing the emphasis on health promotion, disease and injury prevention, and care of patients with complex problems or chronic disease
- Improving the coordination of primary care with hospital, long-term and specialty care
- Facilitating greater use of multi-disciplinary teams



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Primary Care Network Facts

- **38 PCNs operating in Alberta**
 - 2,202 family physicians (approximately)
 - 425 FTE (approximately) other healthcare providers
 - Includes nurses, dietitians, social workers, pharmacists
 - 2.5 million patients informally enrolled with PCNs
- **5 PCNs under development**
- **Formalized groups of PCN Physician & administrative Leaders**



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Alberta Primary Care Networks

- PCNs operate within a mixed payment environment, receiving a per-capita payment of \$50 per patient per year from Alberta Health and Wellness
- Physicians continue to be compensated for insured medical services using either fee-for-service or existing alternate payment arrangements.
- Some PCNs also receive funding from Specialist Linkages Grants



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Key Principles Supporting a Strong Primary Care System

- **Activated Patient**
 - Patient Engagement as Partner
- **Access to Care**
 - Access & Continuity
 - Care Coordination
- **Care Improvements**
 - Population Management and Recall
 - New Delivery Methods
 - Evidence, Reliability and Safety



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Key Elements of a Strong Primary Care System

- **Clinic Improvements**
 - Efficiency and Workflow
 - Practice Management
- **Tools**
 - Integrated Interdisciplinary Teams
 - Measurement and Process Improvement Methods (QI)
 - Electronic Medical Records / Information Technology

Discussion Paper of Interest:

Patient-Centred Primary Care in Canada: Bring It on Home

The College of Family Physicians of Canada, 2009



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Opportunities to Engage PCN's in....

- **Outcome Measurement**
- **As Clinical Champions**
- **As Leaders in Knowledge Translation**
- **As Working Group Members**
- **Align Knowledge Translation work between programs**
 - It is important that we recognize they have many competing priorities & focus
 - How can we make it worthwhile and easy for them to engage



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Early Success Examples

- **Calgary Rural PCN – *Collaborating For Performance Initiative***
- **Chinook PCN**
- **Edmonton Southside PCN**
- **Calgary Foothills PCN**
- **Others?**



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