

April 2019

SOS Division of Family Practice: Primary Care Network Backgrounder

What the Primary Care Network means for doctors

- Family physicians provide the overwhelming majority of primary care.
- We make a commitment to our patients through their lives and health journeys.
- Physicians spend an increasing amount of time helping their patients navigate the health care system completing forms and paperwork, and ensuring their patients are efficiently referred to the secondary care they need.
- Being part of an interconnected network of specialists, allied health providers, health authority services, and community organizations means doctors can reduce their administrative workload, spend more time one-on-one with patients, and provide patients with a clear path to the care they need.

The role of Divisions of Family Practice in supporting doctors and building a Primary Care Network

- Divisions of Family Practice are community-based groups of family physicians working together to achieve common health care goals.
- Divisions work with community and health care partners, including Health Authorities and First Nations communities, to enhance patient care and give physicians a collective voice in creating grassroots health care change.
- Doctors' participation in Divisions represents our commitment outside of our busy practices to improve primary care for patients and the community.
- Primary Care Networks give us the chance to go further in working together to organize an often confusing primary care system.
- We're creating a more viable environment for family physicians to practice—thereby increasing the number of family physicians in the community and the number of people who have one.
- We see Primary Care Networks as a means to achieve the shared goal of Divisions and our partners: for everyone in the community to have access to primary care.

Local Primary Care Network Goals

- There are a lot of details to work out in implementing the kind of health care transformation underway in BC. As physicians, we all want the same thing: the best for our patients. We look forward to receiving funding resources to achieve the goals we set for our communities:
 - All patients who want one will have a physician or a nurse practitioner
 - Patients will have a primary care team
 - Patients will have One Chart
 - The strong physician network will be maintained and supported
 - IH and community services will be integrated with primary care clinics
- Any addition of resources and supports to primary care is a positive step for patients and health care providers.
- Ensuring patients in our community have access to primary care services is a priority for the Division.
- We look forward to building on the work we've been doing in our community with partners to ensure patients get the best frontline health care.