

Référence

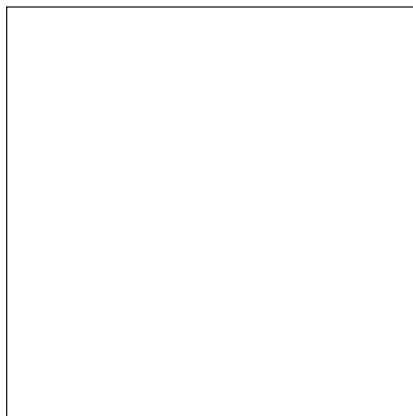
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Home care critical part of health care

I was pleased to see the July issue of *Canadian Family Physician* focus on family physicians as a resource to the community.

As a national voice for home care, the Canadian Home Care Association recognizes that a strong and effective home care sector is a critical component of Canada's health care system. It endorses an approach to health care planning, design, and implementation that emphasizes collaboration to make "continuity of care" a reality. Two of the Association's priorities for 2004-2005 are identifying and sharing good practices in acute home care and managing chronic diseases through primary health care and home care linkages with other components of the health care system.

The editorial "Acute hospital services in the home"¹ is particularly timely. Although this country lacks specific "hospitals in the home," all home care programs do provide care for patients who would otherwise require hospital care. Physician involvement in these cases is essential. Governments and home care programs must understand and support physicians' active participation in acute home care as outlined in the editorial. Credit should be given to the New Brunswick Extra-Mural Hospital for its pioneer work in developing the hospital in the home.



The article "Enhancing primary care for complex patients"² describes multidisciplinary interventions that enhance communication between primary care providers. The Canadian Home Care Association has begun a project funded through the Primary Health Care Transition Fund that will focus on helping primary health care providers, notably family physicians, home care case managers, and other community services develop a stronger role in coordinating and integrating health care services for patients with chronic diseases. This initiative will build upon current primary health care activities in Ontario and Alberta.

The Canadian Home Care Association is committed to working with family physicians and others in moving home and community care from its marginal position into the mainstream of Canada's health system.

—Murray Nixon, MD, CCFP, FCFP
President, Canadian Home Care Association
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by mail

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