

# PrimaryCare NETWORKS

## **Primary Care Networks in Manitoba: Information for Primary Care Providers**

### ***What is a Primary Care Network?***

A Primary Care Network (PCN) is a collaboration between regional health authorities, fee-for-service primary care practices, and community organizations who work closely with one another to plan, develop and provide enhanced local primary care services.

PCNs share resources, information and responsibilities, providing primary care services to their collective patients in a timely, efficient manner. Achieving the full long-term vision for PCNs will be an incremental process.

### ***Why are Primary Care Networks being developed?***

1. To improve access to primary care for all Manitobans.
2. To demonstrate quality and safety in primary care.
3. Increase the focus on person- and patient-centred primary care.
4. To connect care providers within and across geographic boundaries to provide smooth transitions in care.
5. To enhance efficiency in primary care and support a sustainable health system.

### ***How will I benefit from joining a Primary Care Network?***

As part of a PCN, you will work in an interprofessional environment with greater access to shared resources, patient information and specialized services. This collaborative approach can free up time for your practice to provide more comprehensive care (from prevention to treatment) to more patients. You will be involved in decision-making, with influence in how your RHA functions and in how PCN funds are expended.

### ***How will my patients benefit from a Primary Care Network?***

Patients will have greater access to a full range of health programs and services offered by their primary care network team, at a time and place convenient to them.

PCNs will help reduce unnecessary repetition of patient medical history, repetition of medical tests, diagnostic errors and avoidable hospital and ER visits while providing patients with access to providers who best match their needs.

***How will joining a Primary Care Network affect my practice?***

As a member, you will share decision-making about operations of the PCN. You will have input on how care is delivered across the continuum of care, and have access to new resources. Your patients will be encouraged to receive the majority of their primary care from your practice and network, contributing to a sustainable care relationship. In the long-term, patients will be asked to formally enrol with your practice to maintain continuity of care. Manitoba Health will support this process.

***How will RHAs work with fee-for-service physician clinics in a PCN?***

Newly established PCNs will include collaboration with all or some of the fee-for-service primary care practices operating within the health region. Some PCNs may span more than one health region and involve more than one RHA.

Since PCNs are set up to reflect the characteristics and needs of their community and population, each network is unique. Participating members have the opportunity to pool resources to provide primary care that is more cost-efficient, enhances the scope of your practice, and improves access for patients.

Fee-for-service clinics participating in networks will continue to be responsible for operations of their practice and will be key members in determining the approach and direction of their PCN.

***Do I need any additional resources to participate in a PCN?***

No additional resources are required. Resources such as EMRs and Advanced Access can be used to support PCN goals.

***How do I join a PCN? Can I participate individually or do the physicians in my clinic need to join as a group?***

Clinics, not individual providers, will sign-on to become part of a PCN. Your clinic can contact the RHA to discuss PCN opportunities or the RHA in your area may approach you to participate in a PCN.

Interlake-Eastern RHA:	(204) 753-2012 / 1 877 753-2012
Northern RHA:	(204) 677-5350 / 1 888 340-6742
Prairie Mountain Health RHA:	(204) 483-5000 / 1 888 682-2253
Southern RHA/Office regional de la santé du Sud :	(204) 424-5880 / 1 866 716-5633
Winnipeg RHA:	(204) 926-7000

**Further information about Primary Care Networks at:**

**<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pcn/index.html>**