

The Four Principles of Family Medicine

PRECEPTOR RESOURCE

Principle #1: The family physician is a skilled clinician

- Family physicians use a patient-centred clinical method.
- Family physicians use a comprehensive approach to the management of disease and illness for patients and their families.
- Family physicians have an expert knowledge of a wide range of common problems.
- Family physician's approach to health care is evidence-informed based on the best scientific evidence available.

Principle #2: Family medicine is a community-based discipline

- Family practice is based in the community and influenced by community factors.
- Family physicians adapt to changes in patient needs by mobilizing the right resources for the individual.
- Family physicians are skilled at dealing with ambiguity and uncertainty and can provide care in a range of settings.
- Family physicians are part of a community network of health-care providers and are skilled at collaborating as team members.

Principle #3: The family physician is a resource to a defined practice population

- Family physicians use effective strategies for self-directed, lifelong learning when it comes to prevention and health promotion.
- Family physicians advocate public policy that promotes patients' health.
- Family physicians accept their responsibility in the health care system for wise stewardship of scarce resources, and consider the needs of both the individual and the community.

Principle #4: The patient-physician relationship is central to the role of the family physician

- Family physicians form special relationships based on trust with their patients by providing them with continuing care.
- Family physicians become their patients' advocate.

For more details about the four principles, visit: <https://www.cfpc.ca/en/about-us/vision-mission-principles>



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Principle 1

The family physician is a skilled clinician.

- Patient-centred
- Comprehensive approach
- Expert knowledge
- Evidence-based



Principle 2

Family medicine is a community-based discipline.

- Influenced by community factors
- Adaptable
- Skilled at dealing with ambiguity and uncertainty
- Collaborative



Principle 3

The family physician is a resource to a defined practice population.

- Prevention
- Health promotion
- Lifelong learner
- Advocate
- Stewardship



Principle 4

The patient-physician relationship is central to the role of the family physician.

- Continuing care
- Advocate
- Trust

