



### AMÉLIORATION DE LA COLLABORATION INTERDISCIPLINAIRE DANS LES SOINS DE SANTÉ PRIMAIRES

#### EICP Principles and Framework

*Interdisciplinary collaboration*—a trend in primary health care that involves teamwork, co-operation and co-ordination—makes sense because it focuses on people, gets health professionals working together, encourages efficiencies and promotes health.

*“Interdisciplinary collaboration refers to the positive interaction of two or more health professionals, who bring their unique skills and knowledge to assist patients/clients and families with their health decisions.”*

*—(Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT), 2005*

The Enhancing Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Primary Health Care (EICP) Initiative has developed the **principles and framework elements** needed to inspire positive changes to our health system. The Initiative has been focused on how to create the conditions for health professionals everywhere in Canada to work together in the most effective and efficient way, so they can produce the best health outcomes for patients/clients and their families. Collaboration has benefits for health professionals as well.

#### The *EICP Principles and Framework*

reflect wide-ranging consultations and research involving the public, health professionals, health organizations, governments, academics, regulators and educators from coast-to-coast-to-coast. They will serve as a blueprint for reform at the primary health care level.

#### Principles

Principles establish the shared values that guide and drive change—in this case, a move toward more interdisciplinary collaboration in primary health care.

The *EICP Initiative Principles* will create a foundation for professional and system-wide approaches to primary health care policies, programs and services. They must be at the heart of a sustained effort to build teams and encourage more collaboration in primary health care. The EICP Initiative recommends the following principles:

- Patient/client engagement
- Population health approach
- Best possible care and services
- Access
- Trust and respect
- Effective communication

## Framework Elements

*The EICP Framework is comprised of the structural pieces or elements necessary to encourage and sustain collaboration at the primary health level. The framework describes the characteristics of a systemic approach and its component parts.*

The EICP Steering Committee believes that encouraging more collaboration and teamwork will require attention to the following framework elements:

- Health human resources
- Funding
- Liability
- Regulation
- Information and communications technology
- Management and leadership
- Planning and evaluation

## The EICP Initiative

A more detailed explanation of the evolution of the *EICP Principles and Framework* can be found on the EICP web site at [www.eicp-acis.ca](http://www.eicp-acis.ca).

The EICP Initiative was funded by Health Canada's Primary Health Care Transition Fund and had a mandate to produce a final set of principles and a framework for interdisciplinary collaboration.

Representatives from 10 national health care organizations and a coalition that promotes preventative practices provide leadership to this Initiative. Their goal was to develop a "framework that fits" for interdisciplinary collaboration.

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