



AMÉLIORATION DE LA COLLABORATION INTERDISCIPLINAIRE DANS LES SOINS DE SANTÉ PRIMAIRES

MEDIA RELEASE

Initiative Says the Future of Medicare Is in the Hands of Teams

OTTAWA, April 25, 2006 – An 18-month study of interdisciplinary collaboration in primary health care released today proclaims that the teamwork trend must become entrenched if Canada hopes to address future health challenges and support the sustainability of our national health system.

Health professionals working on the front line of Canada’s health system will need to collaborate more, and work more often in teams, if the shifting demands of an aging population and emerging health trends such as chronic disease management are to be addressed, says the Enhancing Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Primary Health Care (EICP) Initiative, an alliance of national health professional groups involved in primary health care.

“In the future, medicare had better be in the hands of health teams,” says Dr. John Service, Chair of the EICP Initiative. “We’ve heard loud and clear that collaboration by primary health professionals delivers benefits for patients and clients, and health professionals themselves value the support of a team, especially since they are increasingly suffering from burn-out and long work days.”

Today, the EICP Initiative released a set of **principles** and a **framework** that will guide health organizations, governments, regulators, educators and the health professions themselves as they nurture and practice more interdisciplinary collaboration.

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. The Initiative looked at how collaboration works, and what makes a difference to patients/ clients, health professionals and the primary health care settings in which they work.

The Initiative concluded that collaboration is a key component of primary health care renewal because it co-ordinates health professionals so they can better meet the needs of their patients

and clients. Collaboration gives Canadians better access to the right professional, at the right time and in the right place. The Initiative also argues that teamwork delivers significant benefits in terms of boosting the system's effectiveness, allowing health professionals more time to focus on health promotion, and heightening their job satisfaction.

"You can't beat teamwork for tapping into the best of the skills and expertise our health professions possess," says Dr. Service at a launch event in Ottawa today. "We invest in these professions through their education and on-going training, and our goal should be to marshal those resources as effectively as possible, so we are giving people highly responsive and appropriate care." Dr. Service also noted that innovators across the country are already putting collaborative teams in place.

The *EICP Principles and Framework* can be found at www.eicp-acis.ca. A significant number of organizations from across Canada have indicated their support for the results of this Initiative.

NB: A Fact Sheet about the *EICP Principles and Framework* is also available.

For more information:

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EICP Steering Committee

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