Section of Family Physicians with Special Interests or Focused Practices (SIFP)

Project Status Update

January, 2014

The CFPC is committed to comprehensive continuing care. This includes support for family physicians whose practices include special interests or areas of focused practice. In many circumstances the required additional competencies, often identified in response to patient and community needs, are acquired through ongoing practice combined with appropriate continuing professional development.

While the current family medicine curriculum prepares residents to practice comprehensive care in Canada and achieve certification in family medicine (CCFP), further enhanced skills training may be optional for residents who wish to acquire additional competencies before starting practice. All graduating family medicine residents/family physicians acquire core competencies in all areas of special interest, enabling them to incorporate these areas as part of continuing comprehensive care.

Current SIFP Initiatives:

- The CFPC Board of Directors has approved in principle the awarding of Certificates of Added Competence (CACs) and Special Designations to recognize family physicians who have achieved a recognized level of skill and experience in a specific SIFP program area.
- Five areas are currently being considered for the awarding of CACs: Emergency Medicine, Palliative Medicine, Care of the Elderly, GP Anesthesia, and Sports and Exercise Medicine. Work is under way to better define the enhanced skills competencies in these areas, and to confirm when and how CACs and Special Designations will be implemented.
- Once a program has been approved for a CAC, a practice eligible route will be developed. It will be based on the submission of a portfolio aimed to demonstrate how competence in the area under consideration was achieved and maintained. The process on the practice eligible route will be robust, and will provide a process to recognize additional competencies practising family physicians acquire in practice to better meet the needs of their communities.
- The CFPC will provide further communications updates on these initiatives as details are available. We anticipate the awarding of CACs to begin in July 2015, with further information and update to be provided early in 2014.

For additional information please contact:

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**Backgrounder**

The CFPC established the Section of Family Physicians with Special Interests or Focused Practices (SIFP) to serve as a ‘home’ within the College and to provide networking opportunities, advocacy and support for family physicians with common interests. The CFPC has established a number of SIFP program committees each of which represents a specific clinical area. All College members are eligible to participate in as many programs as they wish. Currently more than 3,000 members have indicated an interest in one or more of the SIFP programs.

To date, the following SIFP programs have been approved by the CFPC Board of Directors:

- Addiction Medicine
- Developmental Disabilities
- Child and Adolescent Health
- Chronic Pain
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Practice Anesthesia
- Family Practice Cancer Care
- Family Practice Dermatology
- Global Health
- Health Care of the Elderly
- Hospital Medicine
- Maternity and Newborn Care
- Mental Health
- Occupational Medicine
- Palliative Care
- Prison Health
- Respiratory Medicine
- Sport and Exercise Medicine

**The mandate of each Program Committee includes the following:**

(i) Communications and networking among members with the same areas of special interest or focused practice;
(ii) Development of CFPC policies and positions related to patient care and the practice needs of family physicians with the relevant special interests or focused practices;
(iii) Advocacy on behalf of the members involved in each area of special interest or focused practice;
(iv) Recommending and planning accredited CME/CPD programs related to the areas of special interest or focused practice;
(v) And for some, defining the competencies to achieve a Certificate of Added Competence

[www.cfpc.ca/SIFP](http://www.cfpc.ca/SIFP)