CFPC ePanel 2017 #3: The Role of Family Physicians in Home Care

Sample Demographics: 1,331 Members, N = 400, Response Rate = 30%
QUESTION 1:
Is your practice currently involved in the provision of home care services to your patient population?

No 27%
Yes 72%
QUESTION 2:
Please describe your practice’s involvement in home care.

- **80%**
  - Offering house calls as part of general practice

- **64%**
  - Communicating with third-party provider of home care services to patients

- **45%**
  - Supporting other health professionals on my team offering home visits

- **22%**
  - Hospice setting

- **4%**
  - Focused practice that solely offers home visits

- **14%**
  - Other
QUESTION 3:
Are you personally involved, including supervising others, in the provision of home care?

Yes  85%

No  15%
QUESTION 3a:
Please indicate why you don’t currently provide home care.

- **46%** Time consuming
- **36%** I used to provide home care services, but stopped
- **24%** Remuneration is not sufficient
- **24%** This is outside of the scope of care I provide
- **7%** Safety concerns
- **7%** Lack of training during family medicine training
- **0%** Do not see the value of home care
- **46%** Other
QUESTION 3b:
What are the reasons that motivate you to provide home care to your patients?

- **80%** Providing home care to patients is essential to the work of a comprehensive family physician
- **80%** Seeing patients in their own environment provides a deeper appreciation for their social and physical environment
- **69%** System-level benefits (decreased hospital admissions, improved patient experience, better outcomes, etc.)
- **69%** Providing home care meets the particular needs of the community I serve
- **58%** I find this work very rewarding
- **17%** Other
QUESTION 4:
What should be the role of family physicians in the delivery of home care services?

- **54%** Primary role—family physicians are in the best position to lead this work with the support of teams
- **28%** Limited role—family physicians should collaborate with other health professionals
- **7%** Mandatory—all family physicians must provide home care as part of their comprehensive practices
- **1%** No role—home care should be provided by other health professionals
- **8%** Other
QUESTION 5: If the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) were to offer more resources to members to support and enable home care, what might be meaningfully beneficial to you?

- 61% Ensuring appropriate home care involvement is part of family medicine postgraduate training
- 52% Advocating for more home care-specific resources with provincial/federal governments
- 45% Ensuring the provision of quality continuing professional development that addresses caring for patients in their homes
- 31% Mentorship/networking opportunities to help support training in home care
- 27% Literature on outcomes generated by physician involvement in home care
- 10% No additional resources are necessary—resources are better spent elsewhere
- 14% Other
QUESTION 6:
Do you see a role for the CFPC in advocating for government policies that support the delivery of better, more standardized home care across Canada?

- 56% Should be a significant area of advocacy
- 25% Should be a minor area of advocacy
- 16% Should be a primary area of advocacy
- 2% Should not be involved
QUESTION 7:
In your opinion, what could be done to better support family physicians in delivering home care?

- Adequate remuneration for home care services (house calls, after-hours, etc.)
- Support and funding for interprofessional teams
- Better integration of primary care and community services
- Expanded coverage of home care services under provincial insurance plans
- Support for interoperable electronic medical records that support multiple points of access
- Improved support for informal caregivers to further enable their provision of care
- Better awareness of and connections to community services
- Increased research/quality improvement opportunities related to home care

85% 71% 70% 62% 60% 59% 55% 31% 5%