OurCare

Ontario Priorities Panel on Primary Care

The OurCare Ontario Priorities Panel brought together 35 people living in Ontario, randomly selected to roughly match the province’s demographics. They spent approximately 40 hours learning from experts and deliberating together before making recommendations on what a better primary care system should look like. OurCare will also be conducting Priorities Panels in Quebec, British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Manitoba in 2023. For more information, visit OurCare.ca/PrioritiesPanels.

Ontario Priorities Panel At-a-Glance

- 35 members
- 17 speakers
- 39 program hours
- 23 recommendations

Members’ Values

- Equity • Accountability
- • Continuity • Data-Enabled
- Transparency • Public and Universal
- Evidence-based • Sustainable
- Accessible • Patient-Centred
- Holistic, Intersectional, and Culturally Responsive

Recommendation Highlights:

Interoperability

- Legislate and enforce data standards that allow interoperability between different electronic medical record systems
- Ensure patient access to their personal health data

Expansion of Coverage

- Expand OHIP coverage to mental health, vision, dental, and pharmacare
- Expand our understanding of primary care to include Indigenous modes of thinking and knowing
- Strengthen links between primary care practitioners and community agencies

Models of Care

- Expand team-based care to every resident of Ontario
- Connect stand-alone walk-in clinics to team-based care organizations
- Implement province-wide automatic rostering system for patients that maintains an element of patient choice
- Develop a centralised digital referral platform for specialist care
- Invest a greater proportion of total healthcare funding in primary care

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Recruitment and Medical Education
• Increase the number of seats for primary care residencies
• Integrate newcomer practitioners and improve accreditation processes for immigrant primary care providers
• Examine and address the reasons fewer medical students are choosing to practice comprehensive family medicine

Public Education
• Educate the public on their rights, including their right to their medical records, by creating a “Health Rights 101” for all Ontarians.
• Educate the public on the value of primary care by developing an education campaign that outlines its contribution towards long-term health