

Statement on Access to Family Physicians

April 15th, 2020

Family physicians are adapting to the current COVID-19 challenging by offering patients phone and video appointments. When seeking care, we encourage patients to call their own family physician first before exploring other options. Continuity is a crucial part of effective primary care; your family doctor knows you and your health history best which will allow you to work together and arrive at the best plan for your care together. We need our primary care system to be patient-centered, and to focus on the best possible care for our patients, which we know means continuity and comprehensive care along with access.

While we know there are patients without access to a family doctor, we continue to promote the Patient's Medical Home (PMH) as a solution to better access and care for our patients. The PMH better utilizes team-based care than the current model of care, so more of our patients will have access to a family physician and their team when PMH is implemented in Saskatchewan. We understand the frustrations of our citizens who do not currently have a family physician; however, the answer is not to further confuse and fragment care when other viable solutions exist. We encourage patients and family physicians to learn more at patientsmedicalhome.ca.

The SCFP strongly encourages patients to contact their family physician clinic for telephone and video visits with their own family doctor. Family doctors remain available to offer care during this crisis and help keep you safe at home with your loved ones and out of the hospital. Family physicians are working with the Health Ministry to adapt our primary care system in this changing landscape to be more patient-centered, more comprehensive, and to focus on continuity and access.