

Title:

Understanding Group Practices in Canada During a Time of Reform Using Mixed Method Research

Conference:

Family Medicine Forum (FMF)- 2007- October 11-13, 2007

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Objectives:

To review results of a mixed method study of group practices in Canada. To conduct an interactive group discussion of emerging trends in group practice.

Trends in the structure and functioning of group practices related to healthcare team will be highlighted focusing on the need for (1) appropriate and skilled leadership, (2) role clarity of professionals, (3) team practice management skills, and (4) appropriate technology. Findings are critical to informing leaders and participants in current reform initiatives.

Key points:

Current Canadian primary care reform emphasizes interdisciplinary healthcare provider teams, health promotion, and illness prevention, developing systems that are patient-centred and community-focused to provide comprehensive, accessible, and coordinated care.

A 2006 study examined professional practice performance (knowledge, attitudes, skills, clinical practice behaviours) and performance gaps of interdisciplinary, community-based group healthcare practices across Canada. The mixed method study involved both qualitative and quantitative data collection strategies.