







Current Status

Through ten years of primary health care reform, primary care in Ontario has evolved from a predominantly fee-for-service system of solo physicians to a sector that consists of a range of practice models. This **practice-level** reform has manifested itself in numerous models of care tailored to the specific needs of communities and providers.

Absent from these changes have been **system-level** reforms to address persistent issues faced by patients with respect to integration with other providers, variation in access and quality and duplication.

Though there are pockets of excellence throughout the sector, there is more work to be done. Results have not improved or changed in the past three years in the areas of:

- Same day/next day access to primary care
- Emergency visits for conditions that could have been treated in primary care
- Follow-up visits with a primary care provider within seven days of discharge from hospital
- Rate of readmissions to hospital within 30 days

Studying the Problem

In 2013, the ministry convened an **Expert Advisory Committee** to provide on a **future vision** for the next phase of primary care reform. Membership of the Committee includes a mix of clinicians, researchers, and senior administrators from LHINs, hospitals, and primary care practices. The Committee's mandate was to:

1. Define future strategic vision, goals and objectives to advance primary health care (PHC) and make recommendations around the design of the PHC system
2. Provide guidance and direction on approaches to improve integration of PHC
3. Build on existing work in PHC, ensuring alignment of the vision to the outcome measurement framework developed through HQO
4. Draw on the work of the PHC Planning Group papers on Accountability, Efficiency, Organization and Governance, Access and Quality
5. Provide timely feedback to MOHLTC on policies and tools currently in development that indirectly relate to the mandate

Co-Chairs:

Dr. David Price, Provincial Primary Care Lead | Elizabeth Baker, NP-PHC, Provincial Nursing Lead

Vision

Over the course of their deliberations the Committee came to describe a vision for primary health care in Ontario. It states that *within three years every Ontarian will identify with a primary care provider from whom he or she will receive high quality care that will be:*



