MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LONG-TERM CARE
Primary Health Care Team

FACT SHEET

Title: **Access to Interdisciplinary Services in Family Health Teams**

Date: **February 2009**

Applies to:

- ☑ Community-Sponsored Family Health Teams
- ☑ Mixed-Governance Family Health Teams
- ☑ Physician-Sponsored Family Health Teams

Introduction

This fact sheet outlines Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (ministry) policy with respect to access to programs and services provided by Family Health Team (FHT) interdisciplinary healthcare professionals (IHPs) for enrolled and non-enrolled patients.

Access to Interdisciplinary Health Care Services

Enrolment is a fundamental component of Ontario's primary health care Patient Enrolment Models (PEMs) upon which Family Health Teams are based. Enrolment is designed to foster the primary health care physician-patient relationship and improve continuity and comprehensiveness of care.

As part of their agreement with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, PEM physicians are required to offer enrolment to all of their patients regardless of health status or need for health services and patients are encouraged to enroll in order to formalize their relationship with their primary health care physician. The number of patients served, including the number of enrolled patients, is one of a range of factors that informs the funding of FHT IHPs. The FHT IHP complement is intended to support FHT primary health care physicians in extending the provision of services and programs that address the needs of the FHT practice patient population.

It is recognized that some patients, who have an established, on-going physician-patient relationship, may choose not to enroll. While the ministry encourages formal enrolment, it is recognized that FHTs may offer such patients access to IHP services. Given that enrolment is a key principle of PEMs, the ministry encourages FHTs to maximize the number of enrolled patients in their patient population.

For more information please contact your FHT Coordinator at 1-866-766-0266