**The Virtual Family Physician Network**

Contact:

Our website is Virtualfpn.com

 Email of the Director: Sam Berman Bermansmb@aol.com

Director cell number: 416 859-6896

Start date: June 15, 2021 or later.

End date: A minimum of 4 months to 12 months or longer

Location: Telemedicine. The clinics are located in Peterborough, Campbellford, Midland and Haliburton. All services are provided through OTN and patient visits can be conducted at any secure location (including at home) in Ontario.

Term: Most physicians stay with us year over year but shorter periods of not less than 4 months are acceptable

Hours/Week: Physicians work the same day or days each week from 9 am – 3 pm Physicians can work 1-5 days per week.

Compensation model: Patients are unattached and seen on a fee for service model (capitated models are being explored with MOHLTC)

Schedules: Physicians and the attending nurse develop their own schedules there are no volume or scheduling requirements. Physicians typically see 15- 25 patients in a day shift.

Compensation: Fee split: 75/25 for insured services 90/10 for uninsured services paid monthly on the 15th of each month

On call: There are no call obligations.

Practice opportunities: No expanded practice opportunities other than research and expanding the capacity of telemedicine to provide comprehensive primary care to an unattached patient population.

New grads: Accepting new grads, collegial support available

Multi-disciplinary teams: All patients are accompanied by an RN or RPN with experience in primary care and telemedicine Patients have access to programs locally for example Diabetes education programs.

EMR: We use Oscar. Might also use Accuro and PSS at some sites.

 

**The Virtual Family Physician Network General Information**

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The large majority of Canadians have access to episodic care through emergency departments, urgent care clinics, walk-ins, and other primary care clinics, as well as OHIP and non-insured telemedicine services.   These episodic care resources do not generally identify asymptomatic risk or disease.   Many hundreds of thousands of Ontarians have asymptomatic risk and disease which, left untreated, leads to premature morbidity and mortality.

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The VFPN only sees patients who are not rostered or regularly seen by a primary care provider. We partner with local health care resources (primarily family health teams and hospitals) and we provide the full range of comprehensive primary care. Electronic medical charts are created and referrals to local services and programs are made and followed.  Patients are put on a waiting list for local primary care providers when they have sufficient resources to accept new patients. In the interim patients are followed by VFPN physicians.  We share the view that the best care is comprehensive primary care with a trusted primary care provider together in the same physical environment. Patients are not rostered to physicians and we operate under shared care model.

Many services and programs are available to patients only if they have a primary care provider. In our most recent site, patients were required to have a primary care provider to access an osteoporosis clinic, heart failure clinic, trans clinic and diabetes clinic. By providing access to a family physician through the VFPN, patients were able to be referred to these local resources.

We partner with local Family Health Teams and hospitals to provide a coordinated, non-duplicative care model. We have been providing these services for 5 years in Peterborough, Campbellford, Midland, Smiths Falls, Englehart and have a new clinic recently opened in Haliburton. We have very low physician turnover, and the work is rewarding. Patients are very appreciative of access.

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