



# PRIMARY HEALTH CARE *A Framework That Fits*



## Framework Elements for Interdisciplinary Collaboration

The work of the Enhancing Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Primary Health Care (EICP) Initiative is focused on how to create the conditions for health care providers everywhere in Canada to work together in the most effective and efficient way, so they can produce the best health outcomes for their patients and clients.

The EICP Initiative is funded by Health Canada's Primary Health Care Transition Fund and has a mandate to produce a final set of **guiding principles and a framework** for interdisciplinary collaboration by the spring of 2006. It is hoped that the principles and framework will encourage health care professions and governments to remove impediments to collaboration and reform the primary health care system in Canada accordingly.

As the EICP Initiative proceeds with its consultations and research, the principles and the framework for interdisciplinary collaboration in primary health care come into sharper focus.

At this early stage, the Initiative has developed a 'snapshot' of the EICP **framework elements** required to build a primary health care system in Canada that encourages teamwork among front-line, primary health care professionals. This snapshot is based on input to date from primary health care providers and the public, literature reviews and research reports. **The EICP Initiative remains open, however, to new and different input.**

Like any snapshot, this is a **picture in time**, and future EICP consultations will further refine and amend these core elements, leading to recommendations about how to encourage and sustain interdisciplinary collaboration at the primary health care level.

## A Snapshot of the EICP Framework Elements (December 2004)

The **EICP Framework** is composed of the structural pieces or elements required to sustain interdisciplinary collaboration in primary health care. The framework describes the characteristics of a systemic approach and the elements required to support the operation of such a system.

Right now, the snapshot shows us that interdisciplinary collaboration in primary health care in Canada will need to be built on a framework that includes the following elements:

- Education and continuing education
- Funding
- Effective and efficient use of resources
- Legislation/regulation
- Liability
- Information systems—planning and evaluation
- Organizational practices and design
- Human resource development
- Outcome-based accreditation
- Citizen engagement
- Quality assurance/accountability
- Evidence-based care, research
- Access via multiple points of entry to the system
- Attitudes of health care professionals

*NB: This snapshot of the EICP Framework Elements is a companion to a snapshot of EICP Principles.*

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