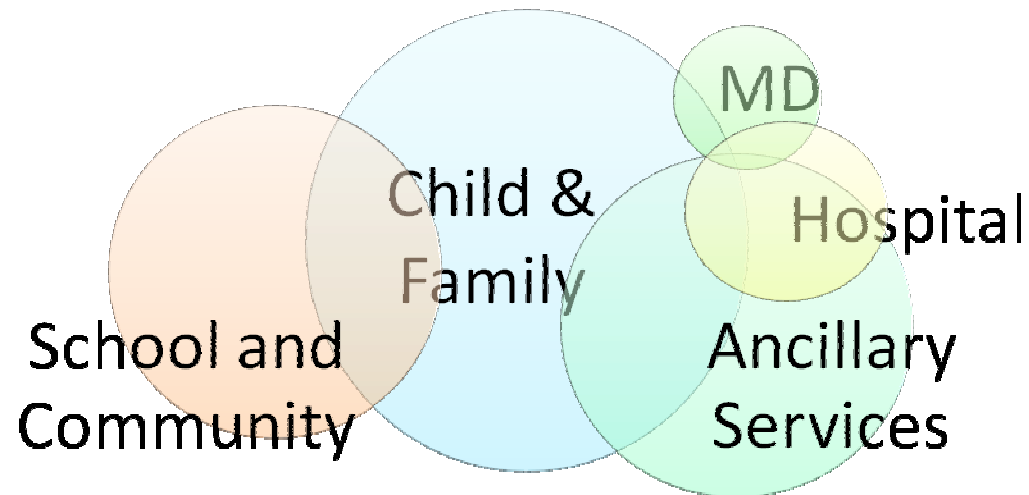


Role of the Paediatrician or Family Physician in caring for children and youth at risk

Systems of care



Increasing complexities in paediatric care

- Long term survivors
 - Premature infants
 - Cancers
 - Diabetes
 - Severe cardiac/gastrointestinal/renal (other) conditions
- Increased care in the community

Increasing complexities in paediatric care

- “at risk” populations
 - children and youth living in poverty
 - First Nations, Métis, Inuit
 - Children new to Canada
 - Developmental and physical disabilities
 - Mental health and behaviour concerns

Background Information

- 88% of children < 5yrs live in urban settings
- 80% of Canadian Paediatricians practice in communities > 100,000

Background Information

- 3.2% of children/youth (5-14 yo) had “learning limitation” (attention problems, hyperactivity, or dyslexia)
 - 22.4% = severe
 - 94.4% had multiple limitations (paired with)
 - (~60% mobility, agility, pain; ~40% memory, emotional/psychological, communication; ~15-20%hearing, vision, developmental)
- Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006:

Background Information

- 0- 5 yr olds
 - 15.9 % delayed vocabulary (PPVT-R)
 - 13.8 % emotional problem /anxiety problems
 - 13.5 % physical aggression /conduct problems
 - 12.2 % hyperactivity /inattention
 - 11.0 % motor and social delays
 - 10.1 % low prosocial behaviour

Background Information

- 10% asthma
- 7.3 % preterm births
- 5.6 % low birth weight
- 5.3 % infant mortality (USA = 7.6 %)

Parental concerns

- Parental survey
 - Severity of disability greatest challenge
 - High levels of stress
 - Negative impact on employment, finances, leisure and personal time
 - Difficulty in finding help and childcare
 - Households with children with disability more likely to fall below Low Income Cut Off

Parental concerns

- Parental survey
 - Parents report a need for more help in caring for their child but cannot ...
 - Too expensive (70%)
 - Help from family and friends unavailable (65%)
 - Services not available locally (40%)
 - Waiting lists (20%)
 - > 25 % of daycares refused to provide child care

Care providers

- Survey of agencies providing care to children and youth
- Identified barriers to services for children with special needs
 - 23 % unable to find trained staff
 - 21 % financial
 - 14 % physical access to facilities
 - 9 % transportation

The Medical Home

- American Academy of Pediatrics has championed a model of providing care
 - patient has an **ongoing relationship** with a personal physician trained to provide first contact, **continuous and comprehensive** care
 - care is **coordinated and/or integrated** across all elements of the complex health care system
 - **Family is central** to partnerships with professionals

The Medical Home

- **Transitions:**

Provision of high-quality, developmentally appropriate, health care services that continue uninterrupted as the individual moves along and within systems of services and from adolescence to adulthood

The Medical Home

- Parental ranking of service needs
 - Information on community resources
 - Financial information
 - Parental support groups
 - Recreational opportunities
 - Psychological services
 - Vocational counselling

 - (respite = # 9 on list, seen as # 1 by physicians)

Role of the Paediatrician

- Canadian Paediatricians have unique roles compared to international colleagues
- Community Paediatricians may provide “primary”, “secondary”, or even “tertiary” care, depending on interests and practice models
- There are insufficient community Paediatricians in Canada
 - Calgary 1.04 million, 44 community paediatricians

Role of the Paediatrician

- Expertise
- First and foremost goal = health and well-being of child and family
- Known and valued colleague/advisor
- Trusting relationship based on shared/common values
- Many community Paediatricians blend office work with hospital/in-patient care

Role of the Paediatrician

- Paediatricians (can) provide
 - Acute and chronic medical care
 - Health supervision and promotion
 - Developmental surveillance/anticipatory guidance
 - Mental health guidance/support
 - Referral as appropriate
 - Coordination of care

Role of the Paediatrician

- Comprehensive
- Longitudinal
- Family centered
- Community oriented

Other Roles of the Paediatrician

- Child protection services
- Education/Administration
- Public Health

What is needed?

- Is it time for a 'medical home' model in Canada?
- Capacity to bring together the expertise of the community paediatrician and other service providers 'under one roof'
- Facilitate coordination of care, and hopefully address some of the issues associated with waiting lists for services

What is needed?

- Calgary model
 - “Virtual” clinic, bringing together paediatricians from across Calgary, with a common electronic charting system, common supply purchase, etc
 - Rooms to be set aside to bring in students as observers or supervised care-givers
 - More importantly, office space will be used as efficiently as possible
 - Long term goal = bring in allied health staff (NP’s, PT’s, etc)