

OCFP Progress Update 2023/2024

Members' Biggest Challenges/Needs

Through various surveys and communications channels, family doctors have told us what they want OCFP to prioritize. Here are the top four areas:

- ✓ Developing solutions to reduce high administrative burden.
- ✓ Advocacy on physician remuneration.*
- ✓ Streamlined medical forms and requisitions.
- ✓ Centralized referral and waitlist process, triaged by need.

* The OCFP advocates for increased compensation at every opportunity, however we are not at the bargaining table and cannot directly influence Physician Services Agreement negotiations.

Collaborating to Drive Change: Progress to Date

Working with partners, the crisis in family medicine has been elevated in the public agenda. Over the past year, we have seen the following progress.



Eliminating Sick Notes

- ✓ Led advocacy efforts with government to eliminate sick note requirements for short-term absences. In May 2024, the Ontario government introduced [legislation](#) that would prohibit employers from requiring sick notes for the three days of provincially mandated sick leave.

Reinforcing the Need for Fair Remuneration

- ✓ OCFP has called for a fair wage recalibration for family physicians and has [supported and supplemented the OMA's position](#). We have spoken to the [rising costs](#) of family practice and the [critical role of family physicians](#) in Ontario's healthcare system.

Sharing Solutions in Media

- ✓ OCFP has been at the forefront in speaking on behalf of family doctors and sharing policy solutions in media, resulting in more than 3,000 media mentions. Some examples [here](#).

Team-Based Care

- ✓ OCFP has long called for more access to team-based care for family physicians and patients. Government made funding commitments in February and April 2024 — with a total investment of \$546 million.

Streamlining Government Forms

- ✓ Added our voice to support the work of the OMA-MOH Forms Committee to streamline and reduce duplicative government forms. Government committed to doing so for 12 key forms.

Fund New Technology to Reduce Administrative Burden

- ✓ Along with other partners, OCFP has advocated for government to fund new technologies including virtual assistants and AI scribes to help streamline workflow. In April 2024, government announced a pilot for AI scribes to more than 150 primary care providers which is showing promising early results.



Establishing a Centralized Referral Process

- ✓ With others, OCFP has been advocating for a centralized referral system, with cases triaged according to greatest need as well as standardized requisitions for imaging and specialist referrals, integrated into EMRs. Government has committed to accelerated expansion of the centralized waitlist program.

Improving Transitions in Care

- ✓ Led efforts to clarify CPSO advice documents regarding the roles and responsibilities of family doctors and specialists. CPSO updated their guidance documents and OCFP developed [continuity of care tools](#) to support our members. We continue to identify streamlined workflow opportunities with the CPSO, as well as with the hospital and pharmacy sectors.

Simplifying Insurance Forms

- ✓ With partners, OCFP has advocated for simplified health insurance forms and processes. The Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association developed a forthcoming, new standardized short-term disability form and clarified the [unnecessary use of referrals](#) for paramedical services.

Ongoing Work in Support of Members

More work needs to be done. The OCFP continues to work collaboratively with partners to address practice and system pain points, while remaining focused on longer term goals of advocating for appropriate remuneration for family physicians, identifying potential new models of primary care to fit today's population and provider needs, and ensuring every Ontarian has access to interprofessional team-based care, anchored by a family physician.