



November 6, 2020

1180844

Dear BC family physicians:

We are pleased to advise that effective November 9, 2020, the Ministry of Health will be accepting Expressions of Interest (EOI) from group practices interested in [the Practicing Full-Service Family Physician Group Contract](#).

All group practices interested in potentially transitioning to the contract will have an opportunity to submit an EOI for assessment of the group practice's first year income guarantee from the Ministry; however, due to the anticipated high demand and the pressures of also contending with a pandemic, **the Ministry of Health is taking a phased and gated approach with respect to the EOIs.** In the first phase, EOIs will be accepted from group practices in communities with approved Primary Care Networks (PCNs) plans and where implementation is underway. Phase 2 will include communities in final stages of PCN planning. Phase 3 will include all communities; however, physicians who are in communities without approved PCN plans in place must be willing to commit to participating in the PCN when available.

The EOI is the opportunity for your group practice to formally express interest in the contract. The group practice's EOI will provide the necessary information for the Ministry to undertake an assessment to confirm that each physician has a longitudinal patient panel and to determine the minimum contract value for the first year of the contract term. If, after receiving the first year contract value, the group practice chooses to continue with a contract, the practice can then connect with the regional health authority. There will be monthly updates on the current phase's volume and activities – EOIs received and assessed.

The Ministry acknowledges the tremendous amount of work and the complexity of supporting family physicians in this significant shift to a new compensation option. Moving this process forward is a priority for the Ministry but recognizing that this is a new and complex process, with anticipated high volumes of EOIs, we know this may take some time. With the same Ministry and health authority staff also working to address the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, we ask for your patience as we progress through this process.

...2

The EOI document and additional information on the EOI process can be accessed [here](#). If you have questions about the EOI process, please e-mail PCN.Compensation@gov.bc.ca.

The revised individual new-to-practice contracts will continue to be available to family physicians without a patient panel who are interested in opening or joining a longitudinal practice. Access to these contracts will be through a similar process that currently exists in relationship to PCN planning. If interested, please contact your Division of Family Practice to discuss opportunities within your PCN. Outside of PCN communities, we will be considering these requests at the Ministry in relation to overall primary care need in the community, and as an early draw on future PCN plans. Please contact your Division of Family Practice to coordinate discussion and next steps. Further information about the individual new-to-practice contract can be accessed [here](#).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Armitage", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Armitage
Assistant Deputy Minister

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ted Patterson", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ted Patterson
Assistant Deputy Minister