

Clinical guideline for homeless and vulnerably housed people, and people with lived homelessness experience

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Health care and patient safety
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Documents

GUIDELINE **VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

Clinical guideline for homeless and vulnerably housed people, and people with lived homelessness experience

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Homeless and vulnerably housed populations are heterogeneous and continue to grow in numbers in urban and rural settings across Canada. Collectively, they face unique living conditions and complex health care needs. Homeless populations are impacted by the health care system and tend to be underserved, often presenting with advanced and/or chronic illness, and are living with numerous and overlapping health care needs.

Effectively addressing "homelessness" encompasses all levels of care, from prevention and early intervention, to supporting the immediate physical, mental and social needs of individuals and families in need, to long-term housing, mental health, and substance use services. This requires a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach to address the complex needs of these populations.

Practice managers, peer support workers and primary care providers can work together to identify social causes of poor health and provide a pathway to address mental health.

A patient's medical history is a family practice defined by the patient as the place they first seek health care, and the place they return to for ongoing care and family health and medical services.

Medical care is "family practice" and not "primary care" until the patient is well through most stages of life, and eventually integrated with other services in the health care system. The "family" (1) will not be defined by the patient as a primary care provider, but will be defined by the patient as the place where they go for prevention, diagnosis and treatment, and rehabilitation services.

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The Canadian Interdisciplinary Palliative Care Competency Framework

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