

Innovations in Indigenous Primary Healthcare Models

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What is meant by a 'model of care'?

- broadly defines the way health services are organized and delivered, and outlines best practice patient care

The Evolution of Indigenous Primary Health Care (PHC)

- Arose from the inability of western health services to adequately meet the needs of Indigenous communities
- A response to the exclusion of Indigenous peoples from western or mainstream health services
- Indigenous PHC services, programs or interventions are more likely than western services to improve the health of Indigenous communities
- Indigenous PHC services are underpinned by the values and principles of the communities they serve

Scoping Review on Innovations in Indigenous PHC Models

- What are the key characteristics and features of Indigenous-led or Indigenous-focused primary healthcare (PHC) models for advancing PHC delivery and meeting the health needs of Indigenous peoples?
- What are the contextual or environmental enablers that support innovations in Indigenous PHC models (e.g., supportive policy environment, federal, provincial, state/territory relations, community readiness, governance, infrastructure, and workforce supply)?

Characteristics of Indigenous PHC Models

Characteristic	Description
Culture	Embedding cultural values and traditional healing practices into PHC services, programs or interventions
Community engagement	Ensuring that services or programs are culturally appropriate, accessible, and designed to take account of the local context and needs. Also key is ensuring Indigenous ownership in the design and delivery of PHC services or programs
Integrated and coordinated care	Ensuring patients receive a continuum of care that is integrated with other healthcare providers and across health system levels
Patient-and-family-centred approach	Providing support and care for the individual and whole family
Holistic care	Supporting the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual needs of the patient; and engaging with the social determinants of health

Contextual Enablers that Support Innovations in Indigenous PHC Models

Enablers	Description
Self-governance and self-determination	The transfer of western services to Indigenous control may not support local innovation; and perceived to result in a lack of decision-making power by Indigenous communities. <i>Self-determination</i> removes the objectives of colonial governments from decision-making and replaces them with Indigenous objectives (e.g., BC First Nations Health Governance model)
Strong Indigenous PHC workforce	Training Indigenous health professionals, cross-cultural competence in professional and patient relationships, and incorporating traditional Indigenous health practices and practitioners into PHC (e.g., community health worker model)
Indigenous-led evaluations of PHC programs, services or interventions	Indigenous community-led evaluations supported by research-policy-practice partnerships is key to implementation and sustainability of Indigenous PHC programs, services or interventions

How does this align with the PMH Model?

