

What type of information am I agreeing to share?

By consenting to the limited release of personal health information, you are allowing the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to release information about your health to your Primary Health Care Group physician. This includes the dates of immunizations and preventive screenings, (such as, pap smears and mammograms) as well as the dates and other types of primary care services that you have received from physicians outside of the Family Medicine Group. You also allow the physician and the Ministry to provide your name, health number, date of birth, gender and address to the designated Telephone Health Advisory Service (THAS).

What happens if I want to change physicians or cancel my enrollment with the FMC Primary Health Care Group?

You are free to change the group or physician you are enrolled with up to two times a year. If you are seeing another general practitioner on a regular basis, the physician you are currently enrolled with can remove you from his/her Primary Health Care Group. The physician can also continue to see you on the same basis as before you enrolled. It is a mutual decision.

When I enroll, how confidential is my medical information?

All information about your health will remain confidential. Your physician is required to respect the confidentiality of your health information, as are the other professionals in your Primary Health Care Group who care for you and your family. Your physician decides if there is a need to share your personal health information. If your records are shared through computer systems, it will be done under the strictest conditions of confidentiality that meet or exceed approved privacy standards and regulations. Your enrollment with the FMC Group will not change this.

I have a Power of Attorney for a dependent adult. Can I enroll him/her with the FMC Group?

Yes. Just sign the Patient Enrollment and Consent to Release Personal Health Information form and check the "Attorney for Personal Care" box (Section 2B). Please make sure you have the valid Power of Attorney for Personal Care document available, in case we contact you for a copy.

If my physician leaves the FMC Group, what happens to me?

You will be able to enroll with your family physician in another Group or you may choose to continue your enrollment with the FMC Group. One of the other professionals in the group will continue to care for you and your family members or dependents if this is what you want.

What happens if I need help between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. or on weekends or holidays?

Just call the toll-free number for the Telephone Health Advisory Service at 1-866-553-7205. You will be connected to a registered nurse who will guide you through an assessment of your health care needs.

For other questions about enrolling with your family physician or about the Patient Enrollment and Consent to Release Personal Health Information Form, please call the patient information line at 1-888-218-9929 / TTY 1-800-387-5559.

Patient Enrollment & Consent: What does it mean?

*Family Medicine Centre
at St. Joseph's Health Centre*

ST. JOSEPH'S
HEALTH CENTRE | TORONTO

In service of Community.

In respect of Diversity.

In celebration of Faith.

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Important Information for Patients

Your Primary Health Care Group

Your family physician is your first contact with the health care system. He or she provides primary health care services like diagnosis and treatment, illness prevention and health education to you and your family. His/her care also includes making referrals to specialists and being involved with or informed about your care in hospital.

Your family physician is part of a group in the Family Medicine Centre who work together in giving you and your family better access to timely quality primary care services.

What does it mean?

Enrolling with The Family Medicine Primary Health Care Group (FMC Group) means that:

1. You and your family will continue to be seen by your family physician during regular office hours.
2. Your FMC Group will provide extended hours Monday to Thursday.
3. You and your family will have after hours access to the Telephone Health Advisory Service (THAS). Qualified and experienced registered nurses will suggest ways to address your health concerns. Over the phone the nurse can tell you how to treat the problem yourself, will recommend an appointment with a physician in your Primary Health Care Group or will advise you to go to the Emergency department nearest you.
4. A doctor from your Primary Health Care

Group will also be on call to the nurses at the Telephone Health Advisory Service.

5. There will be better and more up-to-date information in your medical record. With your permission, the THAS nurse will report back to us on advice offered to you.

How can you join the FMC Group at SJHC?

It's very easy - simply read and sign the Patient Enrollment and Consent to Release Personal Health Information form and give it to your Family Physician. By signing the form you agree to first contact your Primary Health Care Group family physician whenever you have a health related need, unless you are traveling outside the province or find yourself in an emergency situation.

Can I register my child as well?

To register your children under 16 years of age, simply complete the appropriate sections of the Patient Enrollment and Consent to Release Personal Health Information form on their behalf. Patients 16 years and over need to sign their own form.

Can I still see specialists or other Health Care Providers?

Yes. As an enrolled patient to the FMC Group you commit to see your family physician first. As coordinator of your health care, he/she will continue to refer you to specialists or other health care providers as needed.

Can I still get a second opinion regarding my care?

Yes. You can always choose to get a second opinion. You can ask your physician to recommend another physician for a second opinion or you can make your own choice. The advantage of the Primary Health Care Group is that your own family physician will often be able to refer you to another physician or health practitioner that is part of the Group.

Do I have to join my physician's Primary Care Group and will my decision affect the care I get from him/her?

No, the choice is yours. You can continue to receive his/her care without joining. Please make sure to speak to him/her about your reasons for not enrolling. He/she can tell you more about the advantages of enrolling and signing the form for the health care of you and your family.

If my child is sick in the middle of the night, can I still go to the closest Emergency room?

Yes, of course you can. If you think it is an emergency, don't hesitate to go. If you are not sure, simply call the Group's after hours Telephone Health Advisory Service. A registered nurse will provide you with advice on what to do. With your permission, your physician will also have a record of your call and the advice you received to ensure appropriate follow-up for your child.