

FAMILY MEDICINE

Definition	Family medicine is a medical specialty that is focused on providing comprehensive and continuing care to individuals and families in which biomedical, behavioural, and social sciences are integrated and applied. A family doctor is a physician who underwent specialized training in several subspecialties to provide primary and continuing health care services for all individuals and entire families within their communities regardless of age, gender, or type of health problem; addresses physical, psychological, and social problems; and coordinates comprehensive health care services with other specialists as needed.
Scope of practice	<p>1. Demonstrates the appropriate knowledge, skills, and attitude to practice Family Medicine:</p> <p>1.1 Obtains proper history, conducts thorough examinations, evaluates, orders, and interprets pertinent laboratory, radiological, and/or diagnostic tests, diagnoses, provides proper management plan, prescribes appropriate treatments in accordance with national regulations and the laws of the State of Qatar, and follow up patients to monitor their progress.</p> <p>1.2 Integrates and employs up-to-date evidence-based practice considering context, epidemiology of the disease, comorbidity, and the complexity of patients to provide up-to-date quality care with integrity, honesty, and compassion.</p> <p>1.3 Accurately document comprehensive patient information through electronic medical records, and share patient information appropriately to facilitate clinical decision-making, and preserve confidentiality.</p> <p>1.4 Identifies, assesses, and provides necessary information regarding FM-specific elective core procedures including preparation, facility stay, risk of complications, and prognosis. Performs the indicated procedure in a well-controlled safe environment and provides post-procedural care to assess improvement and monitor complications.</p> <p>1.5 Prescribe controlled drugs as per local regulations and State of Qatar laws.</p> <p>1.6 Develops and maintains meaningful relationships and effectively communicates with patients, families, physicians, and other healthcare professionals. 1.7. Provide necessary consultations, counselling, health education and promotion that is gender and culturally appropriate to enhance the health and well-being of patients and families.</p> <p>1.7 Advocates for individuals, families, and community health according to their health needs and priorities, based on the principles of the community-oriented primary care model.</p> <p>1.8 Collaborates with healthcare professionals and participates effectively in teamwork and inter-professional activities.</p> <p>1.9 Demonstrates an understanding of medico-legal matters.</p> <p>1.10 Develops and maintains professional conduct and adheres to ethical principles derived from the profession, Islamic faith and culture, and humanist values.</p> <p>1.11 Demonstrates capacity for reflective practice, professional growth, and lifelong learning.</p> <p>1.12 Contributes effectively to educating students, residents, and other healthcare professionals.</p> <p>2. Provides preventive and promotive care to all individuals and their families in the targeted community by:</p> <p>2.1 Contributes to scientific research and publication of knowledge relevant to FM practice.</p>

- 2.2 Family medicine physicians may receive privileges to provide non-core care beyond this scope as determined by the institutional/national privilege committee.
- 3. Provides preventive and promotive care to all individuals and their families in the targeted community by:**
- 3.1 Promoting a healthy lifestyle including exercise, healthy diet, avoidance of hazardous behaviours, and pertaining risks.
- 3.2 Providing screening services according to current best practices and national policies and guidelines.
- 3.3 Provides premarital care to potential/prospective couples through counselling, family planning, and screening for genetic and infectious diseases according to the national health system.
- 3.4 Arranging and delivering immunization, pharmacological, and non-pharmacological preventative interventions to targeted populations including specific interventions, seasonal campaigns, school wellness programs, and traveling counselling.
- 3.5 Applying appropriate protocols for notification, isolation, and handling of cases with flagged or unidentified communicable diseases and participating in disease surveillance, and management to control and minimize risks of an outbreak.
- 3.6 Applying appropriate institutional and national protocols to minimize microbial resistance to antibiotics in the community by means of health education, counselling, conscious antibiotics prescription, and managing antibiotic-resistant cases.
- 4. Provides continuous maternal and childcare to support safe pregnancy and delivery and foster children's well-being:**
- 4.1 Provides comprehensive preconception, antenatal, and postnatal care through a well-structured system of screening, assessment, managing, and monitoring.
- 4.2 Provides care coordination to manage safe delivery and make appropriate referrals to high-risk pregnancies to ensure mothers' and new-borns' safety.
- 4.3 Provides outreach care to delivered mothers to monitor their health and provide health promotion and awareness services.
- 4.4 Promotes child well-being through well-structured care including health counselling, screening, immunization, and monitoring.
- 5. Manages urgent cases by providing the required care in the right place at the right time:**
- 5.1 Identifies, assesses, stabilizes, and determines the appropriate course of action for patients with urgent conditions to facilitate appropriate timely safe care delivery and referral if needed.
- 5.2 Provides appropriate management to patients with common acute illnesses through comprehensive "biopsychosocial" care to alleviate acute health problems.
- 6. Manages patients with chronic illnesses by providing comprehensive biopsychosocial, integrated, and coordinated care to improve patients' and caregivers' quality of life:**
- 6.1 Provides appropriate management to patients with chronic illnesses through well structured, continuous, and evidence-based healthcare services to control symptoms, prevent complications, and improve patient's quality of life.
- 6.2 Provides and coordinates comprehensive, patient-centred multidisciplinary care for patients with chronic illnesses per patients' needs and conditions.
- 6.3 Provides outreach care to patients with chronic illnesses at home and assists caregivers with the necessary information and skills to improve quality of care.

Clinical core privileges

Integumentary procedures:

1. Simple sutures
2. Suture removal
3. Minor laceration repair
4. Release of subungual hematoma
5. Drainage of acute paronychia
6. Management of Minor burn

Procedures under local anaesthesia:

1. Infiltrate local anesthesia.

Eye procedures:

1. Remove corneal and conjunctival foreign body.
2. Apply an eye patch.
3. Eye irrigation

Ear procedure:

1. Removal of foreign body from the ear (Directly visible, “graspable” only)
2. Removal of visible cerumen

Nose, throat & chest procedure:

1. Removal of foreign body from the nose (Directly visible, “graspable” only)
2. Removal of foreign body from the throat (Directly visible)
3. Perform throat swab culture.
4. Pulmonary function testing

Gastrointestinal procedure:

1. Digital rectal examination
2. Proctoscopy

Genitourinary and women's health procedures:

1. Perform pap smear test.
2. High Vaginal Swab
3. Removal of intrauterine device

Injection and canulation:

1. Perform intramuscular, intradermal, and subcutaneous injection.

Emergency medicine:

1. Bag mask ventilation
2. Airways management
3. Management of obstructed airway/airway foreign body
4. Electrical/chemical cardioversion
5. Intravenous line placement
6. Fracture mobilization
7. Intraosseous line Insertion

References

DHP expert committee