



Definition of Primary Care

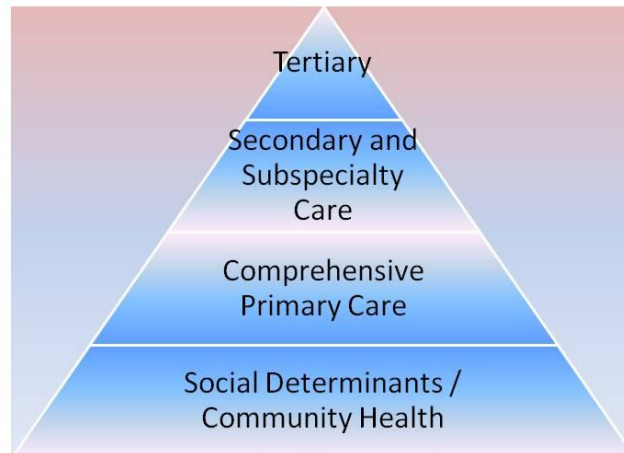
The Expanding Primary Care Work Group of the National Rural Health Association has defined “primary care” as:

Comprehensive health services at the point at which people enter the health care system that includes diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and management.

The entire spectrum of healthcare is divided into four components:

Tertiary • Secondary and Subspecialty Care
Comprehensive Primary Care • Social Determinants / Community Health

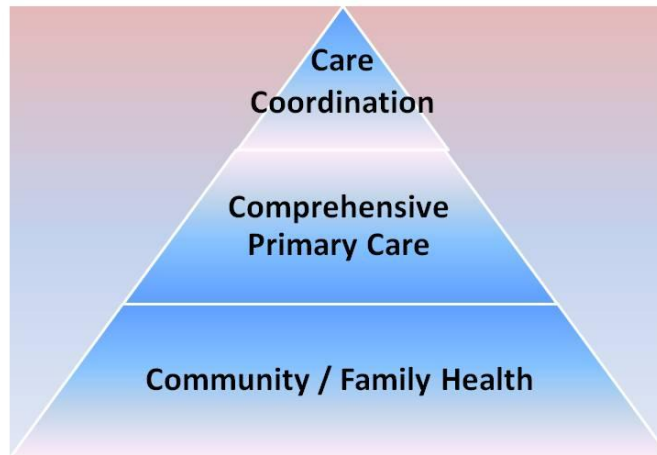
Healthcare Continuum



The component of Primary Care is then divided into three parts:

Care Coordination • Comprehensive Primary Care • Community / Family Health

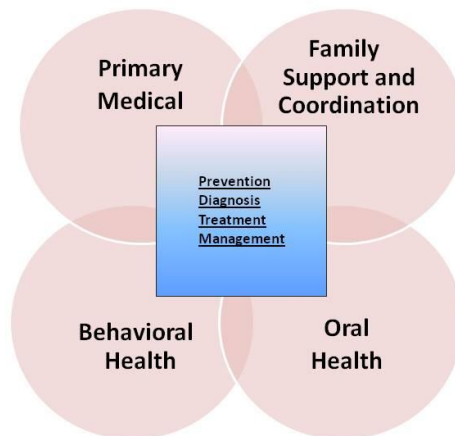
The Scope of Primary Care



Primary Care is practiced in four environments:

Primary Medical • Family Support and Coordination • Behavioral Health • Oral Health

Comprehensive Primary Care Definition



Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment and Management takes place In each of these four environments:

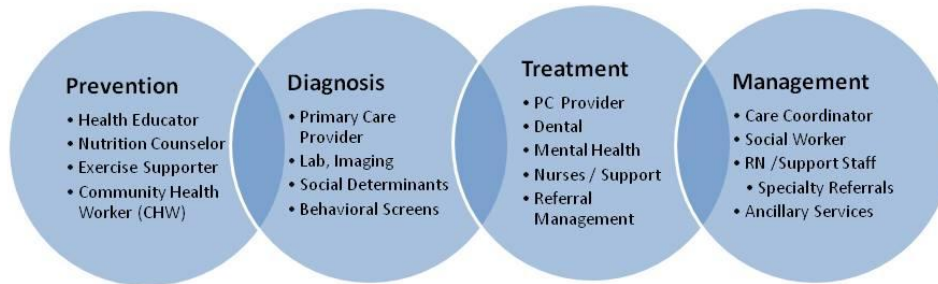
Prevention may include the services of a Health Educator, Nutrition Counselor, Exercise supporter and Community Health Worker.

Diagnosis may include a Primary Care Provider, Lab/Imaging services, Social Determinants and Behavioral Screens.

Treatment may include a PC Provider, Dental Services, Mental Health Services, Nurses/Support Personnel and Referral Management

Management may include a Care Coordinator, Social Worker, Registered Nurse and Support Staff (including Specialty Referrals) and Ancillary Services.


Definition of Rural Primary Care



Staffing Needs vary depending on individual facility and practice circumstances. One example of a functional Primary Care staffing structure is listed below:

Staffing Needs Example

- Core Providers
 - FM, Peds, IM, OB, Psych
 - Primary Care PA
 - Primary Care CNP, CNM
 - Dentist, Dental Hygiene
 - Behavioral Health
 - Nursing, All Clinical Support
 - CHW, Care Coordinators
- Pharmacy (Situational)
- Dietician, Nutritionist
- Exercise Supporters
- Ancillary Support
 - Therapies
 - Alternative Medicine
- Lab
- Imaging



* Diagrams created by Charlie Alfero based on the “Hidalgo Plan” model of Hidalgo Medical Services designed in consultation with and support from the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center and other partners.

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Evolution of Small Rural Hospitals Workgroup