

THE CanMEDS FRAMEWORK

A summary of the CanMEDS educational framework developed by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

The CanMEDS Framework is a set of competencies that are grouped thematically into seven roles (outlined below). Although initially developed for the education of physicians in Canada, the Framework has been recognized globally and applied well beyond medicine. It is now used across numerous health professions and across five different continents. The Framework sets high educational standards which aim to contribute to and enhance patient care.

Common themes that are threaded throughout the CanMEDS Framework include

Health care professionals must collaborate with:

- Other health care professions
- Patients and families
- Community care providers
- And other stakeholders

Health care professionals must focus on the continuous improvement of:

- Personal and collective practice
- Patient outcomes and safety
- The health of communities and populations
- Cost effectiveness
- Quality of services and the overall quality of patient care

Health care professionals must act as leaders, architects, and change agents of the health care system.

- Health care professionals must respond to and advocate for the needs of the populations they serve for social accountability and system-level change
- Health care professionals should expand beyond their clinical or technical role to take on administrative, teaching and scholarly roles and responsibilities

Health care professionals must **commit to life-long learning** to continue to meet the public's changing needs and expectations

The summarized seven CanMEDS Roles

1. Medical Expert

- Apply clinical skills and knowledge of the biomedical sciences to fulfill your scope of practice
- Collaborate with patients and families for patient-centered care and management
- Contribute to health care quality and patient safety

2. Communicator

- Build rapport and empathy in all interactions with patients, and include families (with the patient's consent)
- Understand the patient's perspectives, expectations, and socio-economic issues
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- Use active listening, patient-centered interviewing skills, and culturally safe communication
- Share information in plain language to promote patients' understanding
- Clearly document and share information with patients and others on the care team

3. Collaborator

a) Collaborate **by**:

- Sharing knowledge and perspectives
- Sharing responsibilities
- Learning together

b) Collaborate **in**:

- Care, education, advocacy, administration, and scholarship

4. Leader

- Take responsibility for the ongoing operation, evolution, and continuous improvement of the healthcare system
- Expand beyond a clinical or technical role to take on administrative, teaching, and scholarly roles and responsibilities
- Exercise efficient use of resources to achieve cost-effective care
- Contribute to improvements in personal practice, team, organization, and system

5. Health Advocate

- Understand and address the determinants of health that affect patients and support patients to navigate through the health care system
- Collaborate with communities and populations to influence change in the health care system
- Contribute to health promotion and disease prevention
- Understand determinants and needs, speak on behalf of others, increase awareness

6. Scholar

- Plan for and engage in life-long learning
- Teach others
- Evaluate and apply evidence to day-to-day practice
- Contribute to research, including creation, dissemination, and translation into practice

7. Professional

- Commit to patients, society, profession and self:
 - i. Patients – maintain clinical competence and adhere to ethical standards
 - ii. Society – demonstrate social accountability by responding to societal needs and expectations
Profession – peer assessment, mentorship, supporting others, setting standards
 - iii. Self – participate in self-assessment and reflection, build self-awareness, and manage own well-being

Each role consists of a complete set of competencies and learning objectives.

Please visit [CanMEDS royalcollege website](#) to download the CanMEDS Framework.