



# **PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN OVERVIEW**

## **WHAT IS PRIMARY CARE?**

Primary care means frontline care, and it can come from doctors (family physicians, internists, or pediatricians), physician assistants, or nurse practitioners. Primary care clinicians are the quarterbacks of patient care. They make sure that their patients and their issues don't fall through the cracks of our increasingly confusing health care system. Primary care clinicians care for their patients across the spectrum of their care, including:

- being the first point of contact for undiagnosed health problems
- comprehensive, whole-person care
- building longitudinal relationships and treating chronic problems
- coordinating across other health services

## **WHY IS PRIMARY CARE SO IMPORTANT?**

It's simple: Primary care clinicians ensure that patients get the right care, in the right setting, by the most appropriate practitioner, and in a manner consistent with the patient's desires and values. Data on our health care system increasingly show that areas with higher concentrations of primary care clinicians have lower cost, higher quality health care. But we don't need data to confirm what each of us know already: the incredible value of being cared for by someone who knows us well and understands both our health issues and our personal values. Key stakeholders – employers, legislators, and patients – are increasingly recognizing the value of primary care.

*(Source: Vanderbilt Department of Medicine and PrimaryCareProgress.org)*

# PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN CONFIRMATION FORM

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DO YOU CURRENTLY HAVE A PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN?  YES  NO

IF YES, WHAT IS THEIR NAME AND PRACTICE ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF WELLNESS PROGRAM PARTICIPANT: \_\_\_\_\_

PARTICIPANT'S PRINTED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Providing false or misleading information may result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to, termination of employment. Providing false information will also be considered a material misrepresentation and can result in the employee being retroactively charged the applicable premium reduction amount.

(Source: Vanderbilt Department of Medicine and PrimaryCareProgress.org)