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Editor-in-Chief  
The Globe and Mail  
444 Front St. W.  
Toronto, ON M5V 2S9

Re: “Canada not as good at after-hours medical care as other countries, report finds,” January 21

This article reinforces, yet again, that our health system would benefit by moving to team-based primary care. Using registered nurses, nurse practitioners, physicians, pharmacists and others as required would ensure that people get the care they need where they need it by the professional best prepared to provide it.

A November 2012 Nanos poll, where more than 80 per cent of Canadians polled say they are confident with nurse practitioners managing their day-to-day needs outside of hospitals, shows us a good example of how we could improve our current system. According to the same poll, 76 per cent of Canadians would be comfortable or very comfortable seeing a team of health-care professionals if it improved their access to timely care. So clearly, a different approach to primary care, a more accessible and flexible one that doesn't rely on emergency departments for after-hours care, is what Canadians are looking for.

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