



How family-friendly are you, doctor?

1 Your province has just instituted a new holiday called Family Day. To celebrate, you:

- a) Keep the office open an extra couple of hours, fully-staffed, on the civic holiday. Minor injury rates are notoriously high on long weekends, so you know you'll be able to pick up some extra billings.
- b) Allow staffers with kids to take the day off, paid, while you and the rest of the team cover their work. Your spouse takes your kids skating, explaining your absence with: "Mummy has to work, apparently."
- c) Declare the office closed at noon on Friday and wish everyone a safe and happy Family Day. You're so refreshed you don't mind having to work a few extra hours the next week to tame your backlog.

2 A desperate younger colleague with a toddler, a newborn and a stressed-out wife begs you at the last minute to cover his ED shifts for an upcoming long weekend. You already promised your own stressed-out wife you'd take the weekend off to go to the cottage. You:

- a) Tell the guy sorry, your own family must come first, and help him find a locum.
- b) Accept. After all, your family is used to not having you around.
- c) Sternly remind him why we're in this business and give the chief a heads-up that this guy has 'issues.'

3 Your daughter has made you extremely proud by following in your footsteps and becoming a surgeon. You're less proud when she's a no-show at her daughter's fifth birthday party – which you organized – because she was called in for an emergency AAA. What do you do?

- a) You dry the little girl's tears and get on with the party – after all, you did the same thing so many times, who are you to judge?
- b) Next time you and your daughter are alone you have a heart to heart about your own regrets about putting work before family and gently urge her to try to strike a better balance.
- c) When she finally shows up, you quiz her on how the AAA went and offer some pointers for her next one.

Family-friendly answers: 1 c; 2 a; 3 b

How'd you do?

0 correct You're the Mommy Dearest of medicine. Get yourself a copy of Robert Munsch's *Love You Forever* today, before it's too late.

1-2 correct You inhabit a weird netherworld between Homer Simpson and Ward Cleaver. Take a day off, doc.

3 correct Congrats, Physician Parent of the Year! Go forth and share your wisdom with your floundering colleagues. Please.