



Importance of a Medical Home

A medical home is not a building, house, or hospital, but rather an approach to providing comprehensive primary care. A medical home is defined as primary care that is accessible, continuous, comprehensive, family centered, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective.

In a medical home, a pediatric clinician works in partnership with the family/patient to assure that all of the medical and non-medical needs of the patient are met. Through this partnership, the pediatric clinician can help the family/patient access and coordinate specialty care, educational services, out-of-home care, family support, and other public and private community services that are important to the overall health of the child/youth and family.

Foundation of a Medical Home: The Family-Professional Partnership

The primary care physician and other health care providers

- Know the child's health history
- Listen to the parents' and child's concerns and needs
- Work in partnership with families to ensure that the medical and non-medical needs of the child and family are met
- Create a trusting, collaborative relationship with the family
- Treat the child with compassion and understanding
- Develop a care plan with the family for their child when needed

The parents and child

- Are comfortable sharing concerns and questions with the child's primary care physician and other health care providers
- Routinely communicate their child's needs and family priorities to the primary care physician, who promotes communication between the family and other health care providers when necessary