

All Children Need a Medical Home

It is the position of the American Academy of Pediatrics that health care reform should:

- ★ Incentivize payers to adequately finance the medical home as the primary model of health care delivery for infants, children, adolescents, and young adults.
- ★ Reform payment and delivery systems based on the principles of the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) agreed upon by physicians, family leaders, patient advocates and purchasers.
- ★ Recognize that in order to provide quality health care in a medical home, appropriate payment to providers of these services is essential.
- ★ Encourage large-scale multi-payer pilot projects for children of all age groups.
- ★ Promote the provision of developmentally appropriate health care assessments and counseling to ensure successful transition from adolescence to adulthood.
- ★ Increase collaboration between medical homes and community programs funded by the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant.

The Issue

All children deserve high-quality medical care provided in a medical home. A medical home is not a particular place, but is an approach to providing primary care that is accessible, continuous, comprehensive, family-centered, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective.

Current Status

First pioneered by AAP in the late 1960s, the medical home has become accepted by primary care medical associations, patient and family groups and purchasers of health care as the standard for delivery of primary health care. Through effective partnership between families and providers, medical homes can provide the best care for children by appropriately utilizing limited resources and remaining responsive to health care costs.

Major demonstration projects are underway in the public and private sectors. Many state Medicaid programs are also adopting incentive structures based on the PCMH. The Academy believes that the federal government can incentivize the implementation of the medical home for children in the health care reform effort by providing financing and payment reforms particularly in the Medicaid program; ensuring coverage of necessary services including care coordination; preventive counseling, patient and family education; telephonic and email communication; and requiring better coordination between state maternal and child health programs and pediatric primary care providers.

More information can be found at www.medicalhomeinfo.org.