

Fast Facts about the Colorado Medical Home Initiative

What is the Colorado Medical Home Initiative?

The Colorado Medical Home Initiative is a systems-building effort to promote quality health care systems for all children in Colorado. Bringing together a group of more than 40 people representing various agencies, families, hospitals, organizations and policy-makers, the Colorado Medical Home Initiative is dedicated to building a sustainable system that delivers quality health care for all children. Positioned within the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Colorado Medical Home Initiative is a neutral facilitator in identifying barriers while promoting solutions in developing a quality-based system of health care for children.

Who is involved with the Colorado Medical Home Initiative?

The lead agency for the Colorado Medical Home Initiative is the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Specifically, the Children with Special Health Care Needs Unit is dedicated to developing and implementing the infrastructure to support this effort. Since this effort relies on the cooperation of many agencies, the unit has worked closely with many partners. Some of these partners who have complementary projects include

- The Children's Hospital;
- Colorado's Medicaid agency;
- Colorado Behavioral Health Councils;
- Smart Start Colorado.

What are the essential components of a Medical Home approach?

- Accessible – Families know whom to call, insurance plans accepted, community based, and there is physical accessibility to needed services
- Family-Centered – The family is recognized as the principal caregiver and center of strength, knowledge and support for the child. The family voice is valued.
- Continuous – The same health care professionals are available from infancy through adolescence, and transition to the adult health care system is successful.
- Comprehensive – The child's and family's medical, educational, developmental, psychological and other service needs are identified and addressed.
- Coordinated – A plan of care is developed by the health care provider, child and family and is shared with other involved providers, agencies and organizations.
- Compassionate – Efforts are made to understand and empathize with the feelings and perspectives of both the child and family. Families are comfortable, satisfied participants.
- Culturally Responsive – The child's and family's cultural background (including beliefs, rituals and customs) are recognized, respected and incorporated into care planning.

What is a Medical Home?

- A Medical Home is a concept of *quality* health care.
- It is a team approach to coordinating health care services.
- A Medical Home promotes a partnership between families and providers.
- A Medical Home encompasses medical, mental and oral health care.
- A Medical Home approach is accomplished when families feel included and valued, and when care and treatment options are mutually discussed and collaboratively decided.

Where did the term "Medical Home" come from?

- This term, and more importantly the concept of a Medical Home, originated through the collaboration and work of many professionals and family advocates on a national level, specifically the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- The Medical Home concept is recognized and endorsed by many governmental and professional organizations, including but not limited to
 - State of Colorado, by legislative statute – SB 07-130 passed May 2007;
 - The Colorado Medical Home Initiative;
 - American Academy of Pediatrics – National and State level;
 - Maternal and Child Health Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
 - Kaiser Permanente;
 - The Children’s Hospital;
 - family advocacy organizations.

How can I learn more about the concept of a Medical Home?

Many Web-based resources are available. A few sources are listed below:

- Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs www.hcpcolorado.org
- American Academy of Pediatrics, National Center of Medical Home Initiatives for Children with Special Needs, www.medicalhomeinfo.org
- Center for Medical Home Improvement, www.medicalhomeimprovement.org
- National Initiative for Children’s Health Quality, www.NICHQ.org

Colorado Medical Home Initiative
Children with Special Health Care Needs Unit
Prevention Services Division ~ Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Telephone: 303-692-2370 or 1 800-886-7689 and Fax: 303-753-9249
www.hcpcolorado.org with links to regional HCP offices throughout Colorado



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment