

Medical Home

Maternal and Child Health Fact Sheet

The Need

Children in North Dakota are in need of “medical homes.” A medical home is not a place, like an office or a hospital. Rather, a medical home is an approach to providing health care in a high-quality, cost-effective manner.

A medical home assists in the early identification of children with special health care needs, provides primary care and coordinates with a broad range of other specialty, ancillary and related services.

The medical home approach includes care that is:

- Accessible.
- Family centered.
- Continuous.
- Comprehensive.
- Coordinated.
- Compassionate.
- Culturally competent.

Generally, a medical home is a source of routine health care in the community where providers and families work together to meet the needs of children and families.



Facts and Figures

- According to the 1997 National Health Interview Survey, 94 percent of children nationally had a usual source of medical care. A doctor’s office was the place of care identified for three-fourths of these children.
- In a survey conducted by Children's Special Health Services (CSHS) in 1999, 92 percent of North Dakota families reported their child had a visit with a primary care provider, defined as a usual source or place of care (doctor, nurse practitioner, physician assistant), during the previous 12 months. HOWEVER, when medical home was defined on this survey as “care delivered by a well-trained provider that is accessible, family centered, comprehensive, continuous, coordinated, compassionate and culturally competent,” slightly more than one-half of these families said their child had a medical home.

The Effects

A medical home:

- Allows parents access to the medical home 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Assists primary care providers in coordinating medical services with services offered by schools and other community-based programs.
- Coordinates services among different pediatric professionals.
- Allows for timely referrals to pediatric subspecialists.

The Response

Medical homes for children in North Dakota with special health care needs are promoted by:

- Monitoring the medical home status of children served by CSHS.
- Providing information about medical homes to providers and families.
- Developing expertise about medical homes.
- Collaborating with partners to advance the medical home concept and practice.

In addition, family organizations such as Family Voices of North Dakota Inc. and the Family-to-Family Support Network promote medical homes, as does the North Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.



Data Sources:

- *Measuring Success: National Agenda for Children with Special Health Care Needs*, Maternal and Child Health Bureau
- Medical Home Program for Children with Special Needs, American Academy of Pediatrics
- Maternal and Child Health Block Grant



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