

Family to Family Health Information Center
Patient Centered Medical Home
Fact Sheet for Parents of Children with Special Health Care Needs

What is Patient Centered Medical Home?

The Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) is an approach to providing comprehensive primary care to adults, youth, and children. The PCMH will broaden access to primary care, while enhancing coordination.ⁱ

What is the goal for a Patient Centered Medical Home?

- PCMH puts all of the pieces together to provide each patient with tailored or custom made plans based on your health and family history.
- Your child's doctor gets to know your child well and will put together a team of nurses, pharmacists, and specialists to meet all of her health care needs.
- Other team members include people who can help you with your medical costs or insurance questions.
- Your child's doctor will keep up with all of his health care needs and communicate regularly with his team of providers.
- PCMH will allow you to call in the middle of the night and on weekends. Your child's doctor will also get you a same day appointment.

Where can I find a Patient Centered Medical Home?

- The Idaho Primary Care Association serves as one of the Regional Coordinating Centers who work with 13 Idaho Safety-Net Primary Care Clinics and transform them into a PCMH.
- The Parent organizations of the 13 partner clinics include: Idaho State University Family Medicine Residency in Pocatello; Family Medicine Residency of Idaho in Boise; Terry Reilly Health Services in Nampa; Health West, Inc. in Pocatello; and St. Mary's and Clearwater Valley Hospitals and Clinics in Orofino and Cottonwood.
- Idaho is working to create a minimum of three Pediatric Medical Home Practice Sites beginning in 2012. Idaho Parents Unlimited will be a point of contact for more information.

What questions should I ask my child's doctor about Patient Centered Medical Home?

- Who organizes my child's team of specialists for a PCMH?
- Will I be a part of my child's collaboration?
- Who does the team of providers consist of?
- How long does the process take?

How is a Patient Centered Medical Home related to Healthy Connections?

- The program has several additional managed care initiatives under development and this is one of them - Medical Home Initiatives, including Governor Otter's Multi-Payer Collaboration and Pediatric Medical Homes under the Children's Healthcare Improvement Coalition and Medicaid Health Homes.ⁱⁱ

How does a Patient Centered Medical Home save money?

- There is growing evidence that PCMH saves money, while improving the quality of care – an irresistible opportunity for states. A recent comparison of seven large, mature PMCH programs across the US found annual savings between \$71 and \$503/patient. Extrapolated to all the state's coverage groups, potential savings could reach \$300 million/year or more. The study also found that emergency room visits were reduced by as much as 20% and hospitalizations by 5 to 40%ⁱⁱⁱ

ⁱ www.idahopca.org/

ⁱⁱ <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/>

ⁱⁱⁱ D. Fields et. al., Driving Quality Gains and Cost Savings through Adoption of Medical Homes, Health Affairs 29:819-826, 2010.