



Pennsylvania Medical Home Initiative

Educating Practices In Community Integrated Care

Frequently Asked Questions about the Pennsylvania Medical Home Initiative

What is the Medical Home Initiative?

A Medical Home is not a building, a house, or a hospital...it is an approach to providing health care to Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) by using the child's primary pediatric practice as a hub for coordinating all medical care. The goal of the Medical Home Initiative is to provide CYSHCN with health care services that are accessible, family-centered, continuous, comprehensive, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally-competent. In a Medical Home, health professionals and families work as a team to access all medical and non-medical services necessary to help children reach their full potential.

What does CYSHCN mean?

CYSHCN stands for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs.

What is a "special need"?

"Special needs" means any child who has or is at risk of developing chronic conditions which require health services of a type and amount not usually required by children of the same age. This includes conditions such as asthma, ADHD, rare genetic disorders, congenital heart defects, severe allergies, developmental delays, and hundreds of other disorders.

What is EPIC-IC (also known as the Pennsylvania Medical Home Initiative)?

EPIC-IC (Educating Practices in Community-Integrated Care) was founded when the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services created a series of goals designed to "bring better health to all people in this country." The initiative was called *Healthy People 2010*. Several of the Healthy People 2010 goals are targeted specifically at improving care for CSHCN (Children with Special Health Care Needs) and YSHCN (Youth with Special Health Care Needs).

Recognizing that the Health People 2010 goals could only be met by working together at federal, state, and local levels, the Maternal Child and Health Bureau (MCHB) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) provided funding to create EPIC-IC. EPIC-IC is one of many programs belonging to the American Academy of Pediatrics, a non-profit organization specializing in pediatric advocacy.

EPIC-IC works with pediatric practices to help them implement Medical Home concepts.

Why is my child's pediatric practice participating in EPIC IC?

Our practice has joined the EPIC IC program in order to provide better quality of care to all patients, including CYSHCN.

What does this mean for me?

Our practice may ask you to participate in data collection which will help EPIC-IC track the effects of care coordination on the lives CYSHCN and their families.

What does this mean for my child?

This means that our practice will offer family-centered care and make use of community resources to provide complete care for your child.

Will not participating in data collection affect my child's care in any way?

Deciding not to participate will not affect the care your child receives.

What benefits does participating in data collection have?

Data collected from participants has the potential to improve quality of medical care for children in Pennsylvania and the nation by proving the value of the medical home approach to insurers, hospitals, and other pediatric practices. This could ultimately lead to increased support for families of CYSHCN and more coordinated, complete care for CYSHCN.

If I give you contact information, how will it be used?

Contact information will be used only by EPIC IC to contact you for the survey. It will never be used for commercial purposes or shared with any third parties. You can decline to participate further at any time in the process.

Where can I get more information about the Medical Home Initiative?

For information about the national medical home movement, visit www.medicalhomeimprovement.org. For information about the Pennsylvania Medical Home Initiative, visit www.pamedicalhome.org.