

## For Families of Children with Special Health Care Needs and Chronic Conditions

At Pediatric Practices of NE PA our practice strives to improve the care provided to patients and their families. Part of this includes strategies from the “Pennsylvania Medical Homes Initiative”. What is a Medical Home? A Medical Home is a way to improve care to children with special health care needs, by using their primary physicians’ office to help coordinate their services. It promotes health care professionals and families working together to help children reach their full potential. This includes organizations that can provide respite care for parents, assist with cost of special equipment, ensure your child is receiving the academic services they need, and often at no cost to you.

You can learn more about this project by visiting the “Pennsylvania Medical Home Initiative” website at [www.pamedicalhome.org](http://www.pamedicalhome.org). This website has information on practices across the state, such as ours, that are certified Medical Homes. It also provides resource information on medical conditions, support groups, education, disabilities and much more. There is a web-based social network for parents of children with special healthcare needs. Simply click on the “parents and caregivers” button and begin the process of communicating with other parents throughout the state. This is a great way to seek out or provide support to other parents in a similar situation.

We encourage you to download and fill out the “Authorization for Disclosure of Protected Health Information” located on our website and return it to Pediatric Practices. Once we receive this completed document we can add your child to our database and place them on our “Medical Home Registry”. As a practice we believe our patients and our families deserve the best. The “Medical Home Initiative” is a way to not only help your family but for you to help other families (if you want to) by sharing your experiences and knowledge of caring for children with special health care needs.

Finally, let us know if you have a child with a special healthcare need and would like to speak to another parent in the practice who has a child with a similar condition. We have a group of knowledgeable parents willing and able to talk to you about their experiences with their child and can be of great support to you. You may contact our Medical Home Coordinator, Patti Howell R.N., at (570) 647-6462 or by e-mail her at [patti@ppnp.pcc.com](mailto:patti@ppnp.pcc.com). She can connect you with another parent or answer any questions regarding the Medical Home. We look forward to working with you to help better serve all of our patients with special health care needs.

### The Medical Home Team

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