



A medical home is a way of receiving family-centered, accessible, coordinated, comprehensive care from a doctor. It's about having a stable health care team who knows and understands a patient's unique medical situation and how to best treat the patient based on their needs.

CMS is currently involved in two special projects related to Medical Homes:

Medical Homes for Children in Foster Care

The Federal Fostering Connections Act of 2008 requires each state to develop a comprehensive approach to caring for children in foster care. One requirement is the provision of a medical home for these children.

The Department of Health, in response to this has hosted a conference with Department of Children and Families to begin the dialogue about what is required to implement an effective medical home. The Department of Health, CMS, has also hosted an initial meeting to begin planning the approaches in order to meet the intent of the Act. At these events, several issues have been identified that will be addressed, including

- continuity of Medicaid eligibility
- timeliness of comprehensive behavioral assessment and
- continuity of a medical home

Medical Homes for Children with Special Health Care Needs

CMS strives to provide a medical home for enrolled children with special health care needs. Many other state's Medicaid agencies have started implementation of medical homes for Medicaid beneficiaries based on NCQA's published set of standards for a patient centered medical home. The CMS Network is also interested in moving its service delivery system in this direction and has had initial discussions with AHCA to do so.

Three key components of the medical home are:

- a defined network of providers
- standards for the medical home that lead to cost-effective and quality care
- a revised payment structure that rewards providers for quality care

