



Washington State Medical Home E-Update

News from the Washington State Medical Home Partnerships Project

Summer 2013

The Medical Home Concept Simplified

In This Issue:

- ✚ The Medical Home Explained by Consumer Reports
- ✚ Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative Information for Patients and Clinicians
- ✚ Health Reform and You: A Guide to Understanding Primary Care from The Commonwealth Fund
- ✚ Improving the Medical Home Through the Use of Health Information Technology- Fact Sheet for Families
- ✚ Kaiser Family Foundation Health Insurance: The Youtoons Get Ready for OBAMACARE

The Medical Home concept has changed over time. Initially applying only to children with disabilities, the patient- and family- centered way of providing coordinated, comprehensive primary care is now seen as the best way of providing care for ALL ages. But how do you translate terms like “patient- and family-centered” or “coordinated care” into words that are real for patients and clinicians?

There are some great new resources available that can help. Several key national organizations have stepped up and developed easily understandable materials that explain what care provided through a medical home looks like and how it benefits all of us.

We were especially excited to see Consumer Union, the publisher of Consumer Reports, stepping up in July with a comprehensive and plain English four- page article on the medical home – “A Doctor’s Office That’s All About You”- how much simpler does the concept get?

The Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative, a consortium of health care professionals and organization, business, government and consumer groups, has also stepped up their patient and family focus. They have developed a Stakeholders Center on Patient, Families and Consumers where they identify and post materials on Patient Engagement and other topics. Engagement includes understanding what a medical home is, for both patients and clinicians, and they have some nice one-page fact sheets.

Finally, the Commonwealth Fund continues to fund studies and disseminate information on health care changes, especially that impact the underserved. They have a great new guide for consumers on understanding primary care.

We hope you find these materials helpful. They are short enough you could read some of them in the sun on a coffee break! Happy summer and happy reading!

--Kate Orville, MPH, Katherine TeKolste, MD, and Amy Carlsen, RN, MHPP staff

The Medical Home Explained by Consumer Reports

A Doctor's Office That's All About You- Consumer Reports July 2013, p. 20-23

<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/magazine/2013/07/a-doctor-s-office-that-s-all-about-you/index.htm>

Consumer Reports has expanded their coverage of health care issues and services. This recent article on medical home explains in language that is easily understood how things are changing in primary care and why. (The link above takes you to the article online- if you prefer a 4-page PDF of the article let Kate Orville know).

Note: The August issue of Consumer Reports has an article in this series that focuses on new roles for Nurse Practitioners in health care. A Special Report in the March 2011 Consumer Reports focused on "[What Doctors Wish Their Patients Knew](#)".

Health Reform and You: A Guide to Understanding Primary Care from The Commonwealth Fund

The U.S. health system is changing, and people need clear explanations of how the changes will affect them. To help, The Commonwealth Fund has developed a series of short, jargon-free publications about some of the key transformations taking place now and over the next few years. They're supported with nonpartisan, reliable research, and geared toward health care providers, employers, and anyone else interested in gaining a better understanding of what reform really means.

The first in the series—[Primary Care: Our First Line of Defense](#)—is available now. Touching on some of the critical concepts in health care reform, the brief explains why primary care is so important to patients and also to the country's bottom line. It looks at medical homes, a model of care in which a team of health professionals works together to ensure people get the right care, as well as ways we can change payments to doctors and hospitals to make sure care is appropriate and people are healthy and productive. Finally, it reviews how the health care reform law is designed to help strengthen primary care.

In the coming weeks, The Commonwealth Fund will be posting more briefs in [this series](#). Coming soon:

- The New Health Insurance Reforms: What They Mean for Consumers and Employers
- Better Care at Lower Cost: Is It Possible

www.commonwealthfund.org/Publications/Health-Reform-and-You/Primary-Care-Our-First-Line-of-Defense.aspx?omnicid=20

Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative (PCPCC) Information for Patients and Clinicians

For Patients:

 **What Does a Patient-Centered Medical Home Mean For You?**

http://www.pcpcc.net/sites/default/files/resources/12_MI395000MHC_401_01_GD.pdf

 **Medical Home Brochures in English and Spanish**

<http://www.pcpcc.net/guide/consumer-education-english-spanish>

For Health Care Professionals and Clinics:

Patient-Centered Medical Home: What you Need to Know

http://www.pcpcc.net/sites/default/files/resources/12_MI394900MHC_401_01_GD.pdf

Infographic: Why the Medical Home Works: A Framework (March 2013)

The PCPCC has developed a framework to help medical home supporters and advocates explain the benefits and strategies associated with delivering patient-centered primary care. The graphic is organized according to the five key features of the medical home model: Patient-centered, comprehensive, coordinated, accessible, and committed to quality and safety.

www.pcpcc.net/resource/infographic-why-medical-home-works

Video: Introduction to the Patient Centered Medical Home

Produced by Emmi Solutions and co-sponsored by the PCPCC and TransformMED

In English (4:28 minutes) and Spanish (6:08 minutes)

<http://www.emmisolutions.com/medicalhome/transformed/>

Health Information Technology

Health Information Technology (HIT) such as electronic health records support the transformation to the medical home model. Here’s a handout making HIT relevant to patients and families.

Improving the Medical Home Through the Use of Health Information Technology

A Fact Sheet for Families

<http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/downloads/pdfs/HITMedicalHomeFactSheet-Families.pdf>

Health Insurance Explained

The Youtoons Get Ready for OBAMACARE

The Kaiser Family Foundation has done it again with a very clever 7-minute YouTube video that explains coverage decisions people will face under the ACA.

<http://kff.org/>

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MHLN Community Teams: www.medicalhome.org/leadership/teams.cfm

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