

# About the Colorado Medical Home Initiative

## What is the Colorado Medical Home Initiative (CMHI)?

The Colorado Medical Home Initiative (CMHI) began in 2001 in response to the Title V / Maternal and Child Health (MCH) national outcome measure, *all children will receive comprehensive coordinated care within a Medical Home*. The Colorado Medical Home Initiative is a systems-building effort to promote quality health care for all children in Colorado.

Bringing together a group of more than 40 people representing various agencies, families, hospitals, organizations and policy-makers, the Colorado Medical Home Initiative is dedicated to building a sustainable system that delivers quality health care for all children. Positioned within the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) as the lead agency, CMHI is a neutral convener in identifying barriers while promoting solutions in developing a quality-based system of health care for children.

## What is Senate Bill-130, *Concerning Medical Homes for Children*?

Senate Bill-130, signed by Governor Ritter in 2007, designates the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) to take the lead in addressing an increase in number Medical Homes for children eligible for Medicaid and CHP+ in Colorado. The Department is responsible to collaborate with the Colorado Medical Home Initiative to implement the requirements of the bill.

## What are the essential components of a Medical Home Team approach?

1. Accessible – Families know whom to call, which insurance plans accepted, community based, and there is physical accessibility to needed services
2. Family-Centered – The family is recognized as the principal caregiver and center of strength, knowledge and support for the child. The family voice is valued.
3. Continuous – The same health care professionals are available from infancy through adolescence, and transition to the adult health care system is successful.
4. Comprehensive – The child's and family's medical, educational, developmental, psychological and other service needs are identified and addressed.
5. Coordinated – A plan of care is developed by the health care provider, child and family and is then shared with other health providers, agencies and organizations.
6. Compassionate – Efforts are made to understand and empathize with the feelings and perspectives of both the child and family.
7. Culturally Responsive – The child's and family's cultural background (including beliefs, rituals and customs) are recognized, respected and incorporated into care planning.

## What is a Medical Home?

- § A Medical Home is a team approach to coordinating *quality* health care services.
- § A Medical Home promotes a partnership between families and health providers.
- § A Medical Home encompasses medical, mental and oral health care.
- § A Medical Home approach is accomplished when families feel included and valued, and when care and treatment options are mutually discussed and collaboratively decided.

## Where did the term "Medical Home "come from?

This term, and more importantly the Medical Home Team approach to quality health care, originated through the collaboration and work of many professionals and family advocates on a national level, specifically the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The Medical Home Team approach is recognized and endorsed by many governmental and professional organizations, including but not limited to:

- § State of Colorado, by legislative statute – SB 07-130 passed May 2007
- § The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Colorado Medical Home Initiative
- § The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
- § American Academy of Pediatrics – National and State level
- § American Academy of Family Physicians – National and State Level
- § Maternal and Child Health Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- § Kaiser Permanente
- § The Children's Hospital

## How can I learn more about the concept of a Medical Home?

Many Web-based resources are available. A few sources are listed below:

- § Colorado Medical Home Initiative, Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs [www.ColoradoMedicalHome.com](http://www.ColoradoMedicalHome.com)
- § American Academy of Pediatrics, National Center of Medical Home Initiatives for Children with Special Needs, [www.medicalhomeinfo.org](http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org)
- § Center for Medical Home Improvement, [www.medicalhomeimprovement.org](http://www.medicalhomeimprovement.org)
- § National Initiative for Children's Health Quality, [www.NICHQ.org](http://www.NICHQ.org)

### Colorado Medical Home Initiative

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