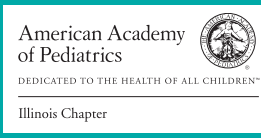




Illinois State Medical Society



◀ Continued from page 4



■ Your Medical Home

Receiving your health care through a medical home ensures that you receive quality, comprehensive and compassionate medical care. Form this important partnership by selecting a primary care doctor for all your medical needs. ■

Your Medical Home



A medical home is not:

- A walk-in clinic.
- A clinic at a retail store.
- An emergency room.
- A clinic that primarily provides care for only acute conditions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO COMMENT ON THIS BROCHURE,

please contact the ISMS Division of Health Policy Research at hpresearch@isms.org or 312-782-1654.

■ What is a medical home?

A medical home is a place you can go for all your primary health care needs and coordination of your specialty medical care. At each visit to your medical home, you see your regular doctor and develop a trusting, working partnership. Your doctor at your medical home does more than just provide your medical care. Your doctor comes to know your unique health care needs and becomes your partner and advocate as you navigate the health care system.

While seeking care at the above places is sometimes necessary, whenever possible it is best to receive your medical care through your primary care doctor. If you do go to another place for medical care, tell your primary care doctor. Your doctor will want to know for what you were treated and what services were provided.



Illinois State Medical Society

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™
Illinois Chapter

Illinois State Medical Society
20 N. Michigan Ave. Ste. 700 Chicago, IL 60602
www.isms.org

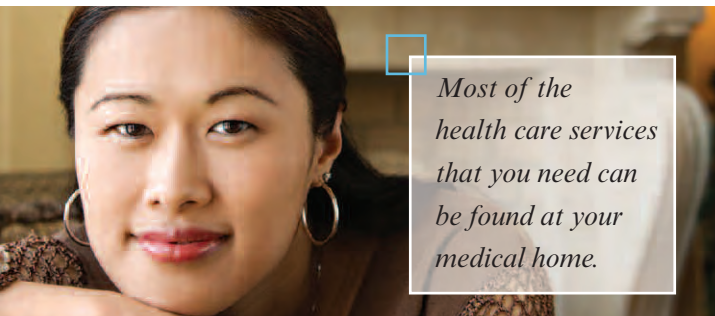


The concept of the medical home was first introduced by the American Academy of Pediatrics in 1967 as a way to help doctors partner with patients and families.

Your medical home is:

- **Accessible**
 - *It is located in your community.*
- **Family-centered**
 - *Your doctor understands you and your family's medical needs.*
- **Continuous**
 - *You regularly see the same primary care doctor.*
- **Comprehensive**
 - *Most of the health care services that you need can be found at your medical home.*
- **Coordinated**
 - *Your regular doctor keeps a central medical record of all your health information.*
 - *If you need to see more than one doctor, your medical home team coordinates your care for you.*
- **Compassionate**
 - *Your doctor and other medical providers have a genuine concern for you and your family.*
- **Culturally competent**
 - *Your doctor respects your cultural and religious beliefs.*

Above elements are based on the desirable characteristics of a medical home as outlined in The Medical Home. *Pediatrics* 2002;110:184-186.



Most of the health care services that you need can be found at your medical home.



Your doctor understands you and your family's medical needs.

What are the benefits of a medical home?

By having a medical home, you are able to build a better partnership with your doctor so that your doctor and other people involved in your care will:

- *Know more about your past and present health.*
- *Respect your needs and requests.*
- *Listen to your concerns and questions.*
- *Be able to better plan your care.*

And you will:

- *Have a more trusting and respectful relationship with your doctor.*
- *Be more satisfied with the care you receive.*
- *Receive high-quality care and have better health outcomes.*

How do I choose a medical home?

Choose a primary care doctor for yourself and/or your child. Most primary care doctors specialize in: family practice, pediatrics, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology or general practice.

You can then go to your primary care doctor for all your primary health care needs and for help coordinating your specialty care.

How should I prepare for my medical home visits?

- *Let your doctor know if you need any special accommodations, or need additional appointment time for your visit.*
- *Bring a list of questions or concerns.*
- *Ask specialist doctors to send reports to your primary care doctor.*
- *Bring a list of the medications that you take.*
- *Bring your insurance card.*
- *Bring immunization records.*

At your visit :

- *Ask for educational material on your conditions.*
- *Ask for referrals to support or educational groups.*
- *Ask when you are to return for your next visit.*
- *Provide feedback to your doctor about your visit.*

