

## Who are Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)?

Children & youth age 0 to 21 who have or are at increased risk for a chronic:

- **Physical**
- **Developmental**
- **Behavioral or**
- **Emotional**

...condition and who also require health & related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children or youth generally.



## American Academy of Pediatrics Medical Home Policy Statement

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) believes that the medical care of infants, children and adolescents ideally should be delivered or directed by well-trained physicians who provide primary care and help to manage and facilitate essentially all aspects of pediatric care.

The physician should be known to the children and youth and their families and should be able to develop a partnership of mutual responsibility and trust with them.

The Connecticut Medical Home Initiative for Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs builds on past experience & success to assure that policies & programs are in place to guarantee that:

- Children have access to coordinated quality health care services
- Providers are adequately trained
- Financing issues are equitably addressed
- Families play a pivotal role in how services are provided to their children
- Children grow up healthy & ready to work

### **RESOURCES:**

**United Way of CT's Child Development Infoline** provides information about medical, educational & recreational resources. Call 1-800-505-7000.

**Connecticut Medical Home Initiative (CMHI) at FAVOR** provides eligibility information on applying for durable medical equipment and other approved extended goods and services including prescribed medications & specialized nutritional support formulas.

CMHI at FAVOR also provides eligibility information about consideration for respite funding. Respite is care provided in or out of the home, for the purpose of giving relief to the family/caregiver from the daily responsibilities of providing care to the child or youth with special health care needs.

Call CMHI at FAVOR toll-free at 1-855-436-6544



[www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph)

# The Connecticut Medical Home Initiative for Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)



## Information for Families of CYSHCN

## What Is a Medical Home?

**A** Medical Home is not a building, house or hospital. It is an approach to providing comprehensive primary care.

In a medical home, a pediatric health care provider works in partnership with children and youth and their families to assure that all the medical and non-medical needs of the children and youth are met.

Through this partnership, the provider can help children and youth and their families access and coordinate special care, educational services, out-of-home care, family support, and other public and private community services that are important to the overall health of children and youth and families.

## What Can You Expect from Your Medical Home?

**I**n a medical home:

- Your primary health care provider respects and listens to you
- Staff know you and help you
- Staff work with you to plan and coordinate care
- Staff support you as principal caregiver and the center of strength and support

## A Medical Home Should Be:

### Accessible

- Care is provided in the family's community
- All insurance, including Medicaid and HUSKY, is accepted and changes are accommodated

### Family-Centered

- The family is recognized as the principal caregiver and the center of strength and support
- Clear, honest and complete information is continually shared

### Continuous

- The same pediatric health care providers are available from infancy through young adulthood
- Assistance with transitions (to school, home, adult services) is provided

### Comprehensive

- Health care is ensured 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

### Coordinated

- Families are linked to medical, educational and other community-based services
- Information is centralized

### Compassionate

- Concern for the well-being of child and family is expressed and demonstrated

### Culturally Effective

- The family's cultural background is recognized, valued and respected

## What Does Family-Centered Mean?

**F**amily-Centered Care assures the health and well-being of children and youth and their families through a respectful family-professional partnership. It honors the strengths, cultures, traditions and expertise that everyone brings to this relationship.

This family-professional partnership means the medical home will:

- Acknowledge that families are the constant in the lives of children and youth
- Build on the strengths of the children and youth and their families
- Support children and youth in learning about self-advocacy and participating in their care and decision-making
- Honor cultural diversity and family traditions
- Recognize the importance of community-based services
- Encourage family-to-family and peer support
- Celebrate successes



***Family-Centered Care is the standard of practice in medical homes that will result in high quality services for CYSHCN.***