

What is a Patient-Centered Medical Home?

How do you become one?

The patient centered medical home (PCMH) model is the provision of comprehensive preventive and primary care which will improve health care quality and efficiency. The patient centered medical home generally has seven core features:

- Personal Physician
- Physician Directed Medical Practice
- Whole Person Orientation
- Coordination and Integration of Care
- Quality and Safety
- Enhanced Access
- Appropriate Payment

Studies demonstrate that having a regular source of preventive and primary care can:

- lower per person costs
- lower emergency room utilization
- reduce hospital admissions
- reduce unnecessary tests and procedures
- result in less illness and injury
- create higher patient satisfaction

One year ago, the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), a private not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality, introduced its Physician Practice Connections -- Patient-Centered Medical Home (PPC-PCMH), a physician practice recognition program. The NCQA program uses standards established by the AAFP, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians and the American Osteopathic Association.

Practices seeking PPC-PCMH recognition must complete a Web-based survey and provide documentation that validates their responses. The NCQA evaluates the practice data, then documents and scores the practice using a point system.

Don't be daunted by the NCQA Standards! Achieving medical home recognition through the NCQA requires measuring and documenting everything that makes your practice a medical home. The AAFP has produced *Road to Recognition*, a guide to simplify the process. Go to: <http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/membership/initiatives/pcmh/ncqaquide.html>

Recognizing that no two homes are alike, this guide was developed to help you choose the level of medical home recognition that you wish to achieve and determine which NCQA elements your practice will document to achieve your goal. The guide is intended as a supplement to the NCQA Standards and Guidelines and the NCQA Survey Tool.

Included in *Road to Recognition* are:

- Examples of policies
- Templates for collecting and measuring data
- Resources for completing elements not currently in place

NCQA

Physician Practice Connections - Patient-Centered Medical Home
(PPC-PCMH)

All of the information and resources listed below are available from NCQA's PPC-PCMH.

Contact Customer Support at 888-275-7585

or

Go to NCQA's Web site at www.ncqa.org/ppc-pcmh.

There are nine PPC® standards, including 10 “must-pass” elements, which result in one of three levels of recognition. Practices seeking PPC®-PCMH™ complete a Web-based data collection tool and provide documentation that validates their responses.

The program standards are now available at no cost.

Resources Available

More Program Information

PPC-PCMH Fact Sheet
PPC-PCMH Content and Scoring Summary
Press Release: 1.8.2008

NCQA Program to Evaluate Patient-Centered Medical Homes

PPC-PCMH Overview
Joint Principles of the PCMH
PPC-PCMH Pricing Fee Schedule
Converting PPC 2006 to PPC-PCMH

Order PPC-PCMH Publications

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