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## The Importance of a Medical Home

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—In the ever-changing world of healthcare, it is more important than ever to have a family physician as your medical home.

According to the Joint Principles of the Patient-centered Medical Home (PC-MH), “A PC-MH is an approach to providing comprehensive primary care for children, youth and adults. The PC-MH is a healthcare setting that facilitates partnerships between individual patients, their personal physicians, and when appropriate, the patient’s family.”

A PC-MH should have a personal physician, physician-directed medical practice, whole person orientation, coordinated care, quality and safety, enhanced access, and adequate payment.

“In the past five years, I have converted my practice to an electronic medical record,” said Brian Bachelder, M.D., a family physician in Mt. Gilead, Ohio. “This is one change I have made in my practice that has helped in providing a medical home for my patients.”

According to The Future of Family Medicine project, developed by the Family Practice Working Party and the Academic Family Medicine Organizations, because of family physicians’ extensive training, they are the only specialists qualified to treat most ailments and provide comprehensive healthcare for people of all ages.

Family physicians know the most current treatments and technologies. They train for three years in real practice settings, treating patients in the office, hospital and home. And, they re-certify more than any other medical specialty. Family physicians continuously educate themselves, which allows them to apply the latest medical breakthroughs to the everyday care of their patients.

Family physicians provide patients with a PC-MH by delivering a range of acute, chronic and preventive medical care services. In addition to diagnosing and treating illness, they also provide preventive care, including routine checkups, health-risk assessments, immunizations, screening tests and personalized counseling on maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Family physicians also manage chronic illness, often coordinating care provided by other subspecialists, from heart disease, stroke and hypertension to diabetes, cancer and asthma.

“In addition to the many changes implemented in providing a range of medical home services, we have stressed the importance of chronic disease management. Family physicians are the only specialty trained to treat patients across a broad range of illnesses and thus coordinate the multiple medications and treatments rendered,” stated Bachelder. “This makes a medical home more important than ever. Studies have shown that this coordination not only improves care, but also decreases costs.”

*The Ohio Academy of Family Physicians is a statewide professional association with more than 4,400 members, including practicing physicians, family medicine residents and medical students. The scope of family medicine encompasses all ages, both sexes and every disease entity. Family physicians provide comprehensive, continuing care to all members of the family.*



## FACT SHEET

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### **What a PC-MH Should Have**

- A personal physician
- A physician-directed medical practice
- Whole person orientation
- Coordinated care
- Quality and safety
- Enhanced access
- Adequate payment

### **What Family Physicians Provide**

- Deliver a range of acute, chronic and preventive care
- Diagnose and treat illness
- Preventive care
- Routine check-ups
- Health-risk assessments
- Immunizations
- Screening tests
- Personalized counseling on maintaining a healthy lifestyle

*Sources: Joint Principles of the Patient-centered Medical Home, a collaborative of the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Physicians and American Osteopathic Association*

*The Future of Family Medicine project, [www.futurefamilymed.org](http://www.futurefamilymed.org)*

*[www.familydoctor.org](http://www.familydoctor.org)*

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