

## *Features and Benefits of a Patient-Centered Medical Home:*



- A personal physician leads a team of medical professionals to coordinate care and identify medical and community resources to meet a patient's needs
- Improved communication between patient and doctor based on trust, respect and shared-decision making
- Greater and faster access to services, including same-day scheduling and e-consults
- Utilizes technology, such as electronic health records, to provide better quality of care
- More focus on prevention which can lead to earlier identification and management of health problems
- Lower per person costs, fewer unnecessary tests and procedures, and less use of the emergency room
- Satisfying to both patients and family physicians

## *When can I become part of a medical home?*

Medical homes are taking shape in cities across the country. Insurers, major corporations, the government, and consumer groups are beginning to embrace the idea. The key is convincing all stakeholders that investing in the **Patient-Centered Medical Home** will improve health, increase doctor's and patients' satisfaction, and lower costs.

## *What can patients do to support the Medical Home concept?*

- Talk to your doctor about ways to encourage the development of Medical Homes locally
- Write your lawmakers and ask them to support Medical Homes
- Stay informed about Medical Home issues by visiting the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians website at [www.mafp.org](http://www.mafp.org)



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***PARTNERING  
with your  
FAMILY DOCTOR  
from the  
COMFORT  
of your  
'MEDICAL' HOME***



*medical home: n. 1. a continuous relationship with a personal physician caring for the whole person.*

A Patient-Centered Medical Home is not an actual building, house or hospital. It's a team approach to providing comprehensive health care in a high-quality and cost-effective manner.

A Patient-Centered Medical Home is based on a continuous relationship with a personal physician. The physician leads a team of medical professionals who together take responsibility for a person's care through all stages of life. The patient has **one place to call**; they have **greater access** to services; they get **personalized care**; that care is **safe and scientifically valid**; and there is a focus on **preventive care** which keeps costs down and patients healthier.



*Do you ever wonder why health insurance is so expensive?*

Do you wonder why your medical bills are so high? Or why the United States spends more on health care than any nation in the world, yet ranks low in overall performance?

It's because **our current health care system is broken**. Doctors are paid for how many patients they see or how many procedures they perform, but not for time spent on preventive care.

Patients end up feeling disconnected and confused in our complex medical system. Many wait to go to the doctor until they're really sick and then are forced to see specialists or get treated in the emergency room - which costs a lot of money.

Minnesota's family physicians are trying to fix our broken system by supporting the **Patient-Centered Medical Home**.



*Family Physicians have always provided compassionate care from cradle to grave. How is this different?*

It's different because widespread support of **Patient-Centered Medical Homes** would provide family physicians the financial resources needed to create Medical Homes, including spending more time listening to you in the exam room, returning phone calls or even replying to your emails.

It's different because family physicians would be working with a medical team to coordinate your care from regular check-ups to specialized treatment. Your records would be kept electronically allowing that team to effectively manage your care throughout the health care system.

It's different because a **Patient-Centered Medical Home** will lower health care costs while providing you with better care!