



NAPNAP Position Statement on Pediatric Healthcare/Medical Home: Key Issues on Delivery, Reimbursement, and Leadership

The National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) affirms that the delivery of children's health care should be family centered, accessible, comprehensive, coordinated, culturally sensitive, compassionate, and focused on the overall well-being of children and families. All qualified pediatric healthcare providers should collaborate in providing healthcare services for children in pediatric healthcare/medical homes. Interventions must address the concepts of family-centered partnerships, community-based systems, and transitional care from pediatric to adult services (AAP, 2008; Duderstadt, 2008).

The pediatric healthcare/medical home is a model of care that promotes holistic care of children and their families where each patient/family has an ongoing relationship with a healthcare professional. Children receiving services in a healthcare/medical home receive management of both their acute and chronic health issues. They and their families also benefit from motivational and anticipatory guidance in health promotion, reinforcement of positive parenting behaviors, parent education, behavioral consultation, nutrition and safety education, developmental assessments, and referrals to community resources. Children with special healthcare needs (CSHCN) who receive health care within medical homes have better health outcomes than those who receive health care in non-medical-home settings (Homer et al., 2008). The outcomes demonstrated with CSHCN strongly suggest that all children receiving healthcare services would benefit if they were served using the same healthcare/medical home model as is recommended for CSHCNs. An optimal healthcare/medical home must meet quality standards identified by national organizations such as the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA, 2008).

Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (PNPs) have the education, knowledge, and skills to successfully lead, coordinate, and manage care within pediatric healthcare/medical homes for children and their families. Advanced practice nurse education strongly focuses on care coordination, holistic care, and family well-being. PNPs deliver a variety of pediatric health-related services: disease prevention, health maintenance, acute illness and chronic condition management, and specialty care. While providing these services, PNPs create partnerships for family empowerment that support the physical and behavioral needs of children and adolescents and promote family strengths and well-being. In a demonstration project, Palfrey and colleagues (2004) found that families reported it was easier to obtain health and support services in a PNP-delivered healthcare/medical home model and that "with high PNP involvement, more than three quarters of the families indicated a better understanding of their child's medical condition" (p. 1514). Through unique child, family, and professional collaboration, PNPs help families access and coordinate their children's health care, receive educational and support services, and reach out to other public and community services that serve the overall health needs of children and their families (ANA, NAPNAP, & SPN, 2008).

The success of healthcare/medical homes is contingent on adequate reimbursement for quality health care (AAP, 2008). To be fully reimbursed, “NPs must be included in all legislation that authorizes demonstration programs, reimbursement and incentives for participation in medical homes or coordinated primary care practices” (Duderstadt, 2008, p. 392). It is imperative that all legislation and policies related to the medical home include provider-inclusive terminology.

NAPNAP affirms that:

- All children (infants through young adults) must have access to comprehensive pediatric healthcare services rendered by qualified pediatric healthcare providers of the families’ choice to ensure optimal health for our nation’s children and youths (NAPNAP, 2007).
- Professional partnerships with families are the foundation of pediatric healthcare/medical homes.
- Services should be provided in pediatric healthcare/medical homes where children’s health records and plans of care are centralized.
- From childhood through young adulthood, care must be comprehensive, continuous, culturally sensitive, and focused on the overall well-being of children and families.
- PNPs are proficient care coordinators in pediatric healthcare/medical homes and are qualified to lead healthcare/medical homes, provide primary direct health care, advocate for children and families, and make appropriate referrals.
- Provider-inclusive language should be used in all legislation and policies regarding any healthcare/medical home issues.

NAPNAP acknowledges the need for additional research on the impact of pediatric healthcare/medical home models. NAPNAP supports the American Academy of Nursing’s statement that calls for research to discover “evidence on the concept and potentially resultant quality improvements and cost savings ...of the health home” (AAN, 2008, p. 5).

In summary, NAPNAP is an organization which promotes optimal health for children through leadership, practice, advocacy, education, and research. It remains committed to pursuing the vision that all children and their families will have access to comprehensive health services within a pediatric healthcare/medical home from qualified pediatric healthcare providers.

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Margaret Brady, PhD, RN, CPNP

Barbara Deloian, PhD, RN, CPNP

Dolores C. Jones, EdD, RN, CPNP, CAE (Staff)

Heather Keesing, MSN, RN, FNP-BC (Staff)

Karen KellyThomas, PhD, RN, CAE, FAAN (Staff)

Linda Lindeke, PhD, RN, CPNP

Jo Ann Serota, MSN, CPNP

Ann Sheehan, MA, CPNP

Allison Shuren, JD, MSN

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