



ACNP

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Medical Homes Must Include Nurse Practitioners as Primary Care Providers

What is a Medical Home?

- A health care provider or group that provides patients with a single point of access to care coordinated by a provider who has in-depth knowledge of that patient.
- Provides individualized continuous and comprehensive preventive, acute and chronic as well as complex care.
- Coordinates care between primary and specialty care providers, as well as other healthcare services.
- Provides patient education and 24/7 advice to maximize self care management.
- A key component of a medical home is the relationship between the PCP and the patient.

Current Legislation

- Medical homes pilots are mandated by the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (Medicare) and the S. 2376 Medical Homes Act of 2007 (Medicaid/SCHIP).

Why should Nurse Practitioners (NP) be a Medical home option?

NP preparation

- NPs are registered nurses who are prepared, through graduate education (Masters degree or higher) and credentialed, to provide a wide range of preventive, acute and chronic health care services to individuals of all ages.

NP Practice

- NPs have provided primary care services as PCPs to patients covered by CMS and by private payors for over 40 years.
- NPs are legally authorized to practice and have diagnostic, treatment and prescriptive privileges in all 50 states. They collaborate with other care providers and are often the only provider in rural and underserved areas.
- Holistic patient centered care, patient education and care coordination are foundational to the nursing approach to health care utilized by NPs.
- The fact that NPs provide accessible, affordable, high-quality care is well documented.

ACNP requests that any medical homes demonstration project include NPs as primary care providers. NPs are well qualified to participate in these projects. Their inclusion will allow the development of an optimal care model which uses all qualified care providers. It fulfills the spirit of a demonstration project by providing unique and exciting solutions to the health care crisis facing this nation.