What is a Medical Home?

The Department of Health, Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) strongly supports Medical Home as a way for doctors and families to share information, a place to learn, a place to give you support and to make sure your child gets the right medical attention he or she needs.

A Medical Home is not a hospital, a home or a place. It is the way your doctor gives medical care to you or your family. In the Medical Home, you are the most important person in your child's life and your doctor listens to you because you know what your child needs. You are a partner in the care of your child's special medical needs.

The Medical Home is a way to help parents set up the very best care for their child's special health care needs:

The parent becomes a team member with everyone in the doctor's office. By being a Medical Home team member, you can make sure your Medical Home

- Gives you correct information about health concerns.
- Talks to you about your needs and the health care needs of your child.
- Includes you, as a parent, in the health care choices of your child.

The Medical Home is:

- **Family centered:** you are a partner with the doctor. He/she shares information about your child's health with you.
- **Consistent/Continuity:** the same doctor sees your child all the time. This doctor will help your child change to adult care when ready.
- **Complete/Comprehensive Support:** the doctor makes sure someone can see your child 24 hours a day either in the office or hospital if needed. They are always there, day or night, to take care of your child.
- **Coordinated Care:** the doctor talks to specialists your child sees, helps with your child's school plan and gives referrals when needed.
- **Concerned:** your doctor is concerned about you, your child and your family.
- **Culturally Aware/Sensitivity:** your doctor includes your religious and cultural needs to plan with you the care of your child.

How will the Medical Home benefit me and my family?

The Medical Home is a benefit to children with special health care needs and their families.

- Families report more satisfaction with the medical care of the child.
- The medical home creates a place for families to go for ideas and to help solve problems about the child's health and other issues while they grow.
- The medical home provides someone to help families manage and sort the services the child needs and gets.
- Things work more smoothly for children when parents, doctors and medical home staff work together.
- The child has better results when their needs are coordinated and he/she will have better health.

http://medhomeportal.org

Utah Department of Health