



Patient-Centered Medical Home

A patient-centered medical home (PCMH) is not a place, but rather an innovative model of delivering more personalized, coordinated, effective, and efficient healthcare.

Each patient in a PCMH has a relationship with a primary care provider who leads a team that takes collective responsibility for patient care, including coordinating appropriate care with specialists as needed, following-up with patients after hospital visits, and ensuring patients receive appropriate preventative services.

The focus in a PCMH is on the “whole patient,” providing not only physical care and treatments but behavioral health services and support as well.

Primary care providers are expected to practice evidence-based medicine; voluntarily engage in performance measurement and improvement; and actively involve patients in health related decision-making and self-management.

A PCMH achieves these goals through a high level of accessibility, providing excellent communication among patients, clinicians, and staff. It is also essential for a PCMH to utilize the latest information technology to prescribe, communicate, track test results, obtain clinical support information, and monitor performance.

Our goal at Tohickon Internal Medicine has always been to deliver the highest quality primary care in accordance with the PCMH model. We are now actively in the process of achieving official medical home status by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). The NCQA is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality since its founding in 1990. NCQA's PCMH is acknowledged as the primary standardized method for evaluating a practice's capability of performing as a patient-centered medical home.

For more information about the Patient-Centered Medical Home, please see below:

- Introduction to the PCMH video (available in English and Spanish), American College of Physicians website, <http://www.emmisolutions.com/medicalhome/acp/>
- PCMH home page, NCQA website, <http://www.ncqa.org/tabid/631/default.aspx> – link to NCQA PCMH 2011 brochure in right-hand column
*Printed brochure also available in our office.
- “Evidence of the Effectiveness of the PCMH on Quality of Care and Cost,” <http://www.pcpcc.net/evaluation-evidence>

For more information on Tohickon Internal Medicine please visit our website at:

www.tohickoninternalmedicine.com

References:

- NCQA website and Patient-Centered Medical Home 2011 brochure
- American College of Physicians website