

## **Maryland Multi-Payer Patient-Centered Medical Home Program (MMPP)**

The Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) is a model of primary care delivery designed to strengthen the patient-clinician relationship by replacing episodic care with coordinated care and a long-term healing relationship. It can lower costs of care through its focus is on the person and patient self-management and engagement, rather than on disease. PCMH encourages teamwork and coordination among clinicians and support staff to give patients better access to care and to take a greater role in making care decisions. Key PCMH components include understanding patients' preferences and culture, shared decision making between patient and clinician, and patients' willingness to establish and work toward personal health goals.

PCMH concepts endorsed in the Joint Principles of the Patient-Centered Medical Home have been adopted by national organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American College of Physicians and by many business and consumer organizations across the United States. For Maryland patients, the MMPP offers:

- Integrated care plans for ongoing medical care in partnership with patients and their families
- Chronic disease management, with the assistance of specialized care coordinators
- Medication reconciliation for every visit
- Increased access to a primary care provider through a "24-7" telephone response
- Same-day appointments for urgent care
- Enhanced modes of care communication, such as e-mail.

For Maryland employers, the MMPP offers the type of health care benefits that they seek for their employees: a strong emphasis on primary care services and lowering the costs of care while improving the health of their workforce through expanded access to primary care clinicians, reduced health care disparities, and better coordination of care.

Maryland began a 3-year program to test this new model of care in 2011, with 52 primary and multispecialty practices and federally-qualified health centers (FQHCs) located across the state. Maryland law requires the 5 major carriers of fully insured health benefit products (Aetna, CareFirst, CIGNA, Coventry, and UnitedHealthcare) to participate in the MMPP; however, the Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP); the Maryland state employee health benefits plan; TRICARE; and private employers such as Maryland hospital systems have voluntarily elected to offer this program to their employees. The program participants are collaborating with the University of Maryland Department of Family Medicine, Johns Hopkins Community Physicians, Kaiser Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic and the program management staff at the Maryland Health Care Commission, Community Health Resources Commission, and Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, to encourage more than 300 primary care clinicians throughout Maryland to adopt these advanced principles primary medical care.

For more information, please see this link <http://mhcc.maryland.gov/pcmh/>.