

Medical Home Portal and Care Notebook

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Families of children with special health care needs often have problems coordinating all of the specialty care that their child needs. The American Academy of Pediatrics developed a medical home model approach to help families deal with this overwhelming need. The medical home consists of a primary care physician or group of physicians and his/her team that works in partnership with the family and patient to ensure that the child's medical and non-medical needs are met.

The Medical Home Portal is one website that gives families an insight into this type of approach. The mission of the Medical Home Portal is to help professionals and families work together to care and advocate for children and youth with special health care needs. In the Portal, you can find information **For Parents & Families, For Physicians & Professionals, Diagnoses & Conditions, Newborn Disorders, Services** as well as **Resources**.

The **Parents & Families Tab** focuses on various points in the journey and facets of assuring the best outcomes for your child such as: *Before a Diagnosis; After a Diagnosis; Responding to a Diagnosis; Early Services; Education and Schools, Navigating Transitions with Your Child; Financing Your Child's Health; Assistive Technology; Taking Care of Yourself and Your Family; Legal Issues; FAQs on Diagnoses & Conditions.*

<http://www.medicalhomeportal.org/>

Whether your child has a medical home or not, it is very important to keep track of your child's medical information. What I like most in this portal is the link to the **Care Notebook** from the American Academy of Pediatrics Medical Home Implementation as well as links to other Care Notebook examples. The Care Notebook is an organizing tool and has many uses which parents/caregivers could use to help track and organize important information about their child's care, services, providers, and notes. The notebook should be customized and personalized to each child/youth with special health care needs. You will have the option to individually download, print or save the forms and documents.

http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/for_families/care_notebook/

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