

SECTION 5

Benefits of Setting up a Consortium of Providers

Medical homes can be created by individual practices or as part of a consortium with other health care providers. Consortia can offer the following enhancements.

Opportunities for hospital affiliation through its provider relations office, which can provide and support:

- Electronic access to hospital medical records and patient visits
- Creation of a daily report to inform your practice about admissions, emergency room visits, and clinic visits from the prior day
- A strong base from which to develop subspecialty referrals
- Professional Education Sessions to advance knowledge base in areas particular to CSHCN
 - ◆ Continuing Medical Education (CMEs) Sessions for physicians
 - ◆ Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for nurses

Collaboration/resource sharing with other physicians that can lead to:

- Opportunities to apply for public or private grant money
- Problem solving, case reviews with other physicians
- A more powerful voice in negotiations with insurers and state departments of health for financing for enhanced services for CSHCN
- Pooling of resources with other practices to host/sponsor family events, and write and develop newsletters/bulletins for families

Professional Education Programs for Physicians and Nurse Practitioners

An affiliation with a university-based, children's hospital is essential to hosting professional education sessions for credit.

Continuing Medical Education (CME)

Suggested Format

- Semi-annual sessions; 3 hours in length
- Three topics per class
- Case-based instruction whenever possible
- Presentations by subspecialists from affiliated hospital

Suggested Topics

- Evaluation of Genetic Mechanisms of Disease
- Nutritional Issues in CSHCN
- Function and Anatomy of Selected Craniofacial Conditions
- Common Orthopedic Problems in CSHCN
- Pediatric Dysphagia/Oral Motor Dysfunction
- Seizures in Children with Significant Developmental Delay
- Diagnosing and Treating Complex Developmental Disorders
- Creating Effective Coverage Plans for CSHCN
- Children Assisted by Medical Technology in the Community (e.g., gastrostomies, tracheostomies)
- Guardianship for Individuals with Special Health Care Needs/Mental Retardation
- Transition from School to Adult Life
- Estimating Utilization and Expenditure Patterns

Professional Education Sessions for Nurse Practitioners

Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

Consider beginning your Nurse Practitioner Training program with three half-day sessions in close succession.

Suggested Initial Topics

- Overview of Chronic Illness and Common Medical Problems
- Case Management
- Communication Issues for Children with Multiple Medical Needs
- Overview, Care and Management of: Tracheostomies; Gastrostomies; Clean Intermittent Catheters; Central Venous Catheters
- Genetics Evaluation Process; Pharmaceutical Interactions; Cultural Diversity and Community Resources

Suggested Subsequent Topics

Format: A three-to-four hour session every two months

- Neurological Assessments
- Pulmonary Complications
- Musculo-skeletal Assessments
- Gastrointestinal Issues
- Immunization Update
- Respiratory Home Care
- Development and Management of the Individual Health Plan
- Children with Chronic Illnesses and Disabilities in the School Setting
- Community Resources: state and local agencies; Public Housing; state Department of Public Health; state Medicaid; state Department of Mental Retardation