

# Medical Home

## NEWS

## PCPCC Releases New Principles To Guide Primary Care, Medical Homes

The Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative, one of the primary drivers of the policies behind the notion of medical homes, has issued new principles regarding how primary care should be delivered and what its main philosophies are.

*By Ron Shinkman*

Called the “Shared Principles of Primary Care,” it stresses seven elements that should comprise such care. They include being continuous, person and family centered, team-based and collaborative, coordinated and integrated, and accessible, among others. The preamble to the Shared Principles observed that “the time is right to revisit the future of primary care.”

The Shared Principles will be formally announced at the PCPCC’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C. next month. Organizations have been asked to sign on to lend their support to the Shared Principles in the meantime. Ann Greiner, who was appointed as the Collaborative’s executive director in April, said in an interview that the initiative to redefine primary care has been going on for about a year, since the Collaborative’s 2016 annual conference.

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## When It Comes To Coordinated Care And Medical Homes, RNs Make A Big Difference

*By Rosemarie Battaglia, Mary Morin; Dana Nelson, et. al.*

In many organizations, ambulatory care registered nurses (RN) are demonstrating the value of their role and making significant differences in patient care that have not been documented in the literature. When the American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing’s (AAACN) Nurse-Sensitive Indicator Task Force (NSITF) met to identify key indicators, there was discussion regarding work that nurses are already doing. National conferences demonstrate poster and oral presentations that highlight results across pediatric and adult care.

The results being achieved while shared at conferences have not been published, preventing the advance of nursing science and decreasing the ability to replicate results across institutions and time. It is evident RNs are achieving results in vulnerable populations with care management of key common medical diagnoses. Many innovative processes are being developed and individual RNs are finding unique ways to benchmark quality that are nurse sensitive and improve outcomes for patients. The purpose of this article is to highlight the role of the ambulatory care RN and share exemplars in those areas where RN care is making a measurable difference.

### Background

In the ambulatory care setting where care is episodic, occurs over time, and is impacted by multiple, inter-professional care team members, it is difficult to measure the specific impact of the RN. Ultimately, the role of the ambulatory care RN is to improve patient health outcomes through proper care management, and decreased emergency department (ED) visits and hospitalizations. This is done by impacting care prior to urgent episodes, improving safe care, and decreasing its overall cost. The following are examples of RNs doing this in their everyday work environment.

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