### Why the Medical Home Works: A Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Sample Strategies</th>
<th>Potential Impacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Patient-Centered              | Supports patients and families to manage & organize their care and participate as **fully informed partners** in health system transformation at the *practice, community, & policy* levels. | • Dedicated staff help patients navigate system and create care plans  
• Focus on strong, trusting relationships with physicians & care team, open communication about decisions and health status  
• Compassionate and culturally sensitive care |
| Comprehensive                 | A team of care providers is wholly accountable for patient’s **physical and mental health** care needs – includes prevention and wellness, acute care, chronic care. | • Care team focuses on ‘whole person’ and population health  
• Primary care could **co-locate** with behavioral or oral health, vision, OB/GYN, and pharmacy  
• Special attention is paid to chronic disease and complex patients |
| Coordinated                   | Ensures care is **organized across all elements** of broader health care system, including specialty care, hospitals, home health care, community services, & public health. | • Care is **documented and communicated** effectively across providers and institutions, including patients, primary care, specialists, hospitals, home health, etc.  
• Communication and connectedness is enhanced by **health information technology** |
| Accessible                    | Delivers **consumer-friendly services** with shorter wait-times, extended hours, 24/7 electronic or telephone access, and strong communication through health IT innovations. | • More efficient appointment systems offer **same-day or 24/7 access** to care team  
• Use of **e-communications and telemedicine** provide alternatives for face-to-face visits and allow for after hours care |
| Committed to quality and safety | Demonstrates commitment to quality improvement through use of **health IT** and other tools to ensure patients and families make informed decisions. | • **EHRs, clinical decision support, medication management** improve treatment & diagnosis.  
• Clinicians/staff monitor **quality improvement goals** and use data to track populations and their quality and cost outcomes |

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Cost savings result from:  
• Appropriate use of medicine  
• Fewer avoidable ER visits, hospitalizations, & readmissions  

Patients are more likely to seek the right care, in the right place, and at the right time.  

Patients are less likely to seek care from the emergency room or hospital, and delay or leave conditions untreated.  

Providers are less likely to order duplicate tests, labs, or procedures.  

Better management of chronic diseases and other illness improves health outcomes.  

Focus on wellness and prevention reduces incidence / severity of chronic disease and illness.  

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