



Importance of a Medical Home

Talking Points

As you may know, some parents are opting to use urgent care, national telephone care companies and in-store clinics for their children's healthcare. As your child's pediatrician, I ask you to consider these facts:

- Children deserve a medical home—a place where their care is accessible, family-centered, continuous, comprehensive, coordinated, compassionate and culturally effective.
- Getting care for your child from multiple healthcare professionals—who do not know your child's total picture--hampers our ability to coordinate the best care for your child. This "fragmenting" of care often results in patient safety and quality problems such as misdiagnosis, too many medicine prescriptions, etc. and compromises the important relationship that we have developed with you in our team approach to your child. Remember, a medical home is a home; "quick care" options are hotel rooms!
- Pediatricians are specially educated and trained in diagnosing and treating your child's care—giving your child a medical home "roof" over his head from birth through high school. We are not just about shots and growth charts, but are concerned with preventing disease and illness across your child's entire spectrum of development—physical, mental, social and emotional. Plus, having an established relationship with his/her doctor teaches your child about how to manage his/her care later as an adult.
- It's "after hours;" when can it wait and when should you call me? As your pediatrician, I'll educate you on getting the best care when you need it.
- Do you really want to walk into a strip mall storefront to find someone to say your child is fit to participate in a particular sport, or get a diagnosis over the phone for your child, when no one in the place or on the other end of the line knows anything about your child?

Remember, don't take shortcuts with your child's health!