

Ohio

Governor's Office of
Health Transformation



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News Release

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Ohio to Expand Patient-Centered Primary Care Initiative

Columbus, OH – The Ohio Department of Health (ODH), in partnership with the Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT), today announced that Ohio will invest \$1 million to assist primary health-care practices around the state transition to a patient-centered medical home (PCMH) model of care and expand the number of PCMH practice sites in Ohio.

The PCMH model of care promotes partnerships between patients and their primary health-care providers to improve care coordination and bolster individuals' health outcomes. Patient care is coordinated using state-of-the-art tools such as registries, information technology, health information exchange and other means to assure that individuals get appropriate care when and where they need it.

"Ohioans spend more per person on health care than residents in all but 13 states, but we rank 42 among states in positive health outcomes," said Greg Moody, director of the Office of Health Transformation. "Today's announcement represents a commitment to reversing that trend and acts on Governor Kasich's instructions to engage private-sector partners to improve overall health-system performance."

Substitute House Bill 198 of the 128th General Assembly, sponsored by state Sen. (then-Rep.) Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering), paved the way for the Ohio PCMH Education Pilot Project to be developed in 44 primary-care practices throughout the state. The legislation was designed around national standards for PCMHs and provides training for health-care providers in this enhanced model of primary care.

"I am pleased to announce that we will not only implement the PCMH program envisioned in HB 198 but expand it to include a total of 50 physician practices throughout the state," said ODH Director Ted Wymyslo, M.D. "In addition, we will give priority to practices that serve underserved or minority populations, and at least 15 percent of every practice that receives training dollars must support either uninsured or Medicaid-eligible Ohioans."

“Patient-centered medical homes have shown promise in other states in eliminating health-care disparities within racial and ethnic populations,” said Angela Cornelius Dawson, executive director of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health and a member of the Ohio Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative. “We are encouraged by the Kasich administration’s efforts to address health-care disparities in our minority communities by committing to include socioeconomic factors and racial and minority populations as criteria when selecting the additional PCMH practice sites.”

“This announcement is another important step in reforming Ohio’s health-care delivery system and giving Ohioans the quality of care they need to have good health at every stage of life,” Dr. Wymyslo said. “A patient-centered medical home leads to better health and reduces costs for individuals and taxpayers.”

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