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Nebraska Medicaid Selects Practices for Medical Home Pilot

Lincoln - Patient-centered medical care will get a boost now that the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is implementing a two-year Medicaid Patient-Centered Medical Home pilot.

A patient-centered medical home is a health care delivery model in which a primary care provider and members of his or her team coordinate all of the patient's health needs, including management of chronic conditions, visits to specialists, and reminders for check-ups and tests.

“To the patient, this means easier access to a medical practice to receive health care and improved health outcomes,” said Vivianne Chaumont, Director of the Division of Medicaid and Long-term Care in DHHS. “To the practice, this means they will be able to do more for their patients in a more efficient and cost-effective manner through their enhanced care coordination effort.”

Two medical practices were selected to participate in this pilot: Kearney Clinic, Kearney and Plum Creek Medical Group, Lexington. The practices will meet a minimum set of standards and will be reimbursed through Medicaid for the enhanced care coordination work.

The Department has received approval to move forward with implementation of the pilot sites from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS).

The Department has engaged TransformMED, Kansas City, to provide technical assistance to the practices as they transform to a recognized medical home. TransformMED is a national leader in the medical home transformation.

The design of this pilot has been in development for the past year with the guidance of a Medical Home Advisory Council appointed by the Governor comprised of six physicians, one hospital representative and an ex officio member from the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee. A list of members and additional information about the initiative can be found at <http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/med/Pilot/index.htm>

This initiative is a result of the Medical Home Pilot Program Act (LB 396) sponsored by Senator Mike Gloor in 2009.