

PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION



Medical Homes

What is a Medical Home?

According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the medical home model is a “way to improve health care in America.” A medical home is not simply a location; it is a method of delivering quality medical care.

Major features of a medical home include:

- **Comprehensive Care**— care involves a team of providers (i.e. physicians, pharmacists, nutritionists, social workers, educators, etc.)
- **Patient Centered**—providers partner with patients and recognize the patient’s needs, values, cultures and preferences
- **Coordinated Care**—providers organize care services across all health care systems (i.e. specialty care, hospitals, home health care, etc.)
- **Accessible Services**—providers offer shorter wait times for critical needs and are reachable day and night
- **Quality and Safety**—providers continue to improve care services

Benefits of a Medical Home

Having a medical home can help to build trust between a patient and his or her provider. It can also lead to better care since the provider knows all about a patient’s medical history and needs. A medical home can connect a patient to health education, support, and services in the community.

Patients should look for a medical home that takes their insurance, is available 24/7, is easy to get to, has office hours that work for them, and can communicate with them in their primary language. *Care for Kids* at the Scott County Health Department (563-328-4114) or an insurance provider can help with finding medical homes. Asking friends and family members for recommendations can also be a great way to find out about local providers.



OUR MISSION:

The Scott County Health Department promotes, protects, and preserves health through leadership, services, education, and partnerships.

OUR VISION:

Scott County—
A safe and healthy
community.



SPECIAL EVENTS

- *There will not be a Scott County Board of Health meeting in August . The next meeting will take place on Thursday, September 21, 2017 at noon at the Scott County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Boardroom.*

Links

For more information about the *Care for Kids* program, go to:

<http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/care-kids/families>

Visit the American Optometric Association to find out more about what happens during an eye exam:

<https://www.aoa.org/patients-and-public/caring-for-your-vision/comprehensive-eye-and-vision-examination?sso=y>

Vision Exams

Routine check-ups for our body and teeth are important, and so are regular exams for our eyes. The American Optometric Association states that many eye health problems do not have obvious signs or symptoms. Treating eye problems early can help prevent vision loss. Additionally, most information that children learn in school is provided visually, which makes being able to see clearly even more important. Basic vision screenings are often provided by family doctors at regular physical health exams, however seeing an eye doctor (optometrist or ophthalmologist) who specializes in eye health treatment is also necessary. How often a person should have an eye exam depends upon a person's level of risk for developing vision problems. For those who have little or no risk, exams are recommended at ages six months, three years, before first grade and then every two years after that through adulthood. Individuals with a high risk for vision problems may need to see an eye doctor more frequently. Some reasons that a person might be considered high risk include premature birth, low birth weight, certain health conditions like diabetes, and a family history of vision problems. An eye doctor can answer your questions and let you know how often an eye exam is needed.

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