Connecting you & your family to quality health care in your community

What is the South Side Healthcare Collaborative?

Since January 2005, the South Side Healthcare Collaborative (SSHC) has been committed to helping people find and connect to quality health care. Known previously as the South Side Health Collaborative, the SSHC is a broad network of community-based health providers with a vision to improve the overall health of Chicago’s South Side. The Collaborative’s mission is to help residents make a long-term connection with a primary care medical home and improve access to other health and social support services that help maintain optimal health and well-being.

Call (773) 702-5668 or visit www.uchospitals.edu/medicalhome
What is a Primary Care Medical Home?

A primary care medical home offers routine health care services such as:

- Annual checkups
- Well child care and school physicals
- Women’s health, including pregnancy tests, annual Pap smears, breast exams, mammograms, and prenatal care
- Men’s health, including prostate cancer screening and annual exams
- Shots for kids and adults
- Sick visits
- On-site medication or pharmacy referrals

Primary care medical homes also offer comprehensive treatment for chronic diseases such as asthma, high blood pressure, diabetes, and kidney disease.

Connecting to a Primary Care Medical Home

The first program of the SSHC has focused on patients who rely on the University of Chicago Medical Center Emergency Room (ER) for health care because they do not have a regular doctor or health provider. Patient advocates in the ER talk one-on-one with patients to help them understand the benefits of having a primary care medical home — a place where a regular doctor or health professional manages and coordinates their care. Since 2005, more than 27,000 patients have received information about SSHC resources, and more than 13,000 have been connected to those services.

What is a Primary Care Health Professional?

A primary care health professional is a doctor, such as family physician, internist, pediatrician, physician’s assistant or nurse practitioner who oversees your overall health. They coordinate your health care to prevent sickness and help manage any chronic health conditions you may have.
What are the Benefits of Having a Primary Care Medical Home?

Personal Relationship
Health professionals care about you and your family and take the time to get to know your health history, which includes both your physical health and your mental or emotional health. They provide health care and advice based on this complete understanding.

Focus on Staying Healthy
They screen you for any possible chronic health conditions, such as diabetes, asthma, cancer, or high blood pressure. If you have one, they treat the condition to make sure you stay as healthy as possible.

Health Care Navigation
Your medical home can help you figure out the right place for you to get your care. It will coordinate the care you need to stay physically and mentally healthy. Your health professionals will refer you to outpatient specialists if more advanced care is necessary.

Your medical home will connect you to services, such as dentistry, pharmacy, health education, HIV, healthy mom and child programs, and other social support services.

Emergency/Urgent Care: Your health care professional may determine that your health condition is urgent and will direct you to the nearest emergency room for care.

Inpatient Care: Health care professionals may also determine that your health condition requires further evaluation. They may admit you to a local community hospital or a specialty care hospital like the University of Chicago or Northwestern Memorial Medical Center, as these facilities offer highly technical and specialized services.

Convenient Access to Care
Many times the best place to go for treatment is right in your community; many sites are listed on the map in this brochure. Medical homes offer services up to 6 days a week and are available for advice by phone when the offices are closed.

Frequently Asked Questions about the South Side Healthcare Collaborative

Q: Who is eligible?
Single adults and families who live on the South Side of Chicago. Collaborative participants accept patients regardless of ability to pay.

Q: Do I have to have health insurance?
Patients without health insurance pay on a sliding fee basis.

Q: What are the fees for a visit?
Fees are based on your income level or ability to pay. Please bring the following to your appointment:
• ID
• A check stub
• Health insurance card (if you have coverage)
• Discharge papers from the Emergency Department (if referred from the ED)
• Notarized Letter of Support (if receiving temporary assistance from someone)
• Funds for a copayment

Q: How do I find out more information about the Collaborative and medical homes?
Call (773) 702-5668 or visit www.uchospitals.edu/medicalhome
Visit one of these locations to establish your primary care medical home. Or contact the South Side Healthcare Collaborative at (773) 702-5668 or visit www.uchospitals.edu/medicalhome