

# USUAL SOURCE OF MEDICAL CARE

## HEALTHY START PERFORMANCE MEASURE



### Healthy Start Benchmark:

Increase the proportion Healthy Start women and child participants who have a usual source of medical care to 80%.

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### Rationale

“Usual source of care” refers to a place an individual or family usually goes to when sick, such as such as a doctor’s office, clinic or health center but not an emergency room. Having a usual source of medical care has been shown to increase quality of care, boost access to preventive services, improve health outcomes, and reduce overall health care costs.

Ideally, the woman or family is connected to a primary care provider who works in partnership with them to ensure that all of the medical needs of the woman/family are addressed. A usual source of care is an important means for ensuring comprehensive and coordinated health care, including behavioral health services, oral health services, and specialty services. Healthy Start grantees can assist Healthy Start participants in connecting to a usual source of medical care to promote overall health and well-being of women and children, including optimal pregnancy and birth outcomes.

This Resource Sheet provides recommended strategies and a selection of resources and evidence-based practices to aid Healthy Start grantee organizations, partners and their staff in promoting a usual source of medical care among Healthy Start women and children participants.



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## Program Level Strategy

### Build Capacity to Promote a Usual Source of Medical Care

#### Strategies

Educate all Healthy Start program staff about the benefits of a usual source of medical care and what can be offered to all Healthy Start participants.

Establish a process in your program or workflow to screen all Healthy Start participants on whether they have a usual source of medical care.

Establish referral systems with local health care providers to coordinate medical homes for women and children.

Build and strengthen coordination and collaboration with your state's Title V Maternal and Child Health program to develop and/or advance comprehensive health care, including clinical-community linkages for Healthy Start participants.

#### Select Resources & Evidence-Based Practices

[AMCHP Strategies for Improving Preconception Health through Health Reform](#)

[Assuring Better Child Health and Development](#)

[National Center for Medical Home Implementation: For Practices](#)

[Partners in Pregnancy](#)



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## Individual & Family Level Strategies

### Assess and Coordinate Access to a Usual Source of Medical Care

Strategies	Select Resources & Evidence-Based Practices
<p>Screen all Healthy Start participants on whether they have a usual source of care.</p> <p>Provide education and informational resources to Healthy Start participants and families on the importance of a usual source of medical care and what services can be provided free of cost.</p> <p>Assist Healthy Start participants in developing goals to maintain their health.</p>	<p><a href="#">Community Care of North Carolina: Pregnancy Medical Home</a></p> <p><a href="#">Patient Centered Primary Care Collaborative List of Patient Centered Medical Homes</a></p> <p><a href="#">Assuring Better Child Health and Development Bright Futures</a></p> <p><a href="#">National Center for Medical Home Implementation: For Families and Caregivers</a></p> <p><a href="#">National Academy for State Health Policy: Primary Care and Medical Homes</a></p> <p><a href="#">Healthy Start Screening Tools</a></p>
<p>Assist Healthy Start participants in enrolling in and obtaining health insurance to support access to health care and preventive care services as needed.</p>	<p><a href="#">From Coverage to Care</a></p> <p><a href="#">Health Insurance Marketplace</a></p> <p><a href="#">Getting the Coverage You Deserve: What to Do If You Are Charged a Co-Payment, Deductible, or Co-Insurance for a Preventive Service</a></p>



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## Community Level Strategies

### Increase Awareness and Promotion of Usual Source of Medical Care for Women and Children Among Community Organizations and Partners

Strategies	Select Resources & Evidence-Based Practices
<p>Work with local American Academy of Pediatrics and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists chapters to ensure and promote a usual source of medical care for women and children in the community.</p> <p>Work with community partners that serve women, children and families to schedule and encourage patients to keep follow-up appointments and re-link the patient with their primary care provider after hospital discharge.</p> <p>Educate and train community health care providers that serve women, children and families to be familiar with the Healthy Start populations they are serving.</p>	<p><a href="#">National &amp; State Initiatives</a></p> <p><a href="#">Community Care of North Carolina: Medical Home</a></p> <p><a href="#">Assuring Better Child Health and Development</a></p> <p><a href="#">Pediatric Practice Enhancement Project (PPEP)</a></p> <p><a href="#">National &amp; State Initiatives</a></p> <p><a href="#">State Health Care Transformation</a></p> <p><a href="#">National Academy for State Health Policy: Primary Care and Medical Homes</a></p>
<p>Partner with local school-based health clinics to strengthen relationships and increase number of children with a usual source of medical care.</p>	<p><a href="#">Patient-Centered Medical Home: How are California School Based Health Centers Relating to This New Model of Care?</a></p>



### Healthy Start EPIC Center Webinar Resources:

[Ask the Expert: Improving the health of Women, Children and Men: A Primer on Preventive Services Covered Under the Affordable Care Act](#)

This Resource Sheet can be accessed electronically: <http://healthystartepic.org/>