





Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMH)
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BCMH Public Health Nurse Services





BCMH is a healthcare program for children and youth with special health needs which supports the work of public health nurses (PHNs). The PHNs work in partnership with families on behalf of children with special health care needs living in the local communities. A public health nurse is an important resource for families to help them work with many agencies and providers caring for their children. This pamphlet explains how the PHNs can help families and how the PHNs work with the BCMH program.

A PHN is:

- A registered nurse (RN) employed by your local health department (listing of health departments located at http:///www.odh.ohio.gov)
- Skilled in working with families and who have a child with a special health care need
- An expert on resources available in your community to help families

"PHN Services" is listed as an approved service on every child's BCMH Letter of Approval (LOA)

PHNs Work with Families and BCMH to:

- Help identify children with special health care needs who may qualify for the program
- Help families fill out forms for BCMH
- Help families locate BCMH providers (list of providers located at http://www.odh.ohio.gov. click letter "B", click on BCMH-Children with Medical Handicaps, middle page click on Locate Providers by County)
- Make referrals to doctors, pharmacies, durable medical equipment providers and other services
- Explain the BCMH program, the Letter of Approval and BCMH paperwork

- Help the family understand their child's medical plan of treatment
- Help families know their rights and responsibilities in regard to BCMH and other programs
- Help families understand and work with their medical insurance plan
- Help families with denied service appeals
- Help families in billing related problems
- Offer families healthy coping methods and appropriate community resources
- Visit families and/or children in the home, school, health department and other places agreed on by the family
- Help families find and use the services they need for their child
- Give health care information to families
- Help families learn about their child's growth and development
- Work with other agencies such as the school, to make sure the child's needs are met. Attends Individual Education Plan Meetings.
- Keep in touch with the family through phone calls and letters

