How is a child enrolled in the BCMH program?

The child's BCMH-approved doctor (M.D. or D.O.) sends a Medical Application Form to BCMH. Public health nurses can start the application process by referring families to BCMH-approved doctors. The parent or legal guardian (or client, if 18 years of age or older) must sign the release of information and consent on the application form before BCMH can act on the application.

How can families learn more about BCMH?

- Public health nurses at local health departments can help families learn about BCMH
- Parents may call the toll-free number, 1-800-755-4769, and follow the instructions to reach BCMH
- Anyone may call BCMH at (614) 466-1700 or e-mail: bcmh@odh.ohio.gov

How can families find a BCMH-approved provider for their child?

- Public health nurses at local health departments can help families find a BCMH provider
- A list of providers is on the Ohio Department of Health Web site
  - First, go to: http://www.odh.state.oh.us
  - Click on the Letter "B" button
  - Click on the "Bureau for Children With Medical Handicaps" button
  - Click on the "Locate BCMH providers by county" button
  - Under the drop-down menu, scroll down to one of the following, select and click "go"
    - BCMH-Equipment
    - BCMH-Facilities
    - BCMH-Pharmacies
    - BCMH practitioners
  - Providers in each category are listed alphabetically by specialty, then by provider name

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Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps

P.O. Box 1603
Columbus, OH 43216-1603

(614) 466-1700

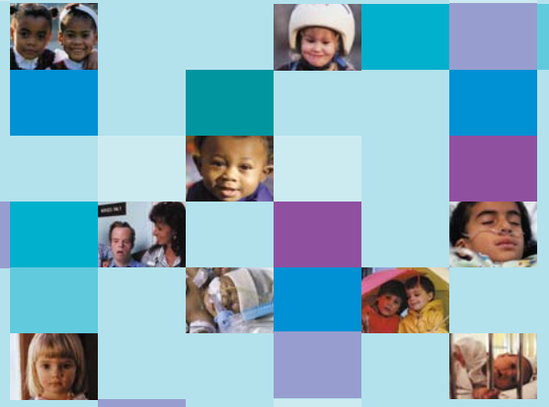
1-800-755-4769
(Toll-free for parents only)

TTY: 1-800-750-0750

E-mail: bcmh@odh.ohio.gov

Do You Have, or Know of, a Child with a Special Health Care Need?

***BCMH** may be able to help!*



What is BCMH?

BCMH, the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps, is a health care program in the Ohio Department of Health. BCMH links families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helps families obtain payment for the services their child needs.

BCMH supports the medical home for children with special health care needs. A medical home is a way to provide high quality health care that is:

- Family-centered
- Accessible
- Continuous
- Comprehensive
- Coordinated
- Compassionate
- Culturally competent

Most importantly, a medical home is a **partnership** between the doctor and the child's family. BCMH works with doctors and other health care providers to ensure that every child with a special health care need will have a medical home.

What are special health care needs?

Special health care needs may be caused by a condition a child is born with or develops later.

Which children are eligible for BCMH?

Those who are:

- Age 0–21
- Permanent residents of Ohio
- Under the care of a BCMH-approved doctor (M.D. or D.O.) and who have or may have a chronic medical condition

Financial eligibility is required for the Treatment Program only.

What conditions are eligible for BCMH?

Some of the eligible conditions are:

- AIDS
- Cancer
- Cerebral palsy
- Chronic lung disease
- Cleft lip/palate
- Congenital heart disease
- Cystic fibrosis
- Diabetes
- Hearing loss
- Hemophilia
- Juvenile arthritis
- Metabolic disorders
- Scoliosis
- Severe vision disorders
- Sickle cell disease
- Spina bifida

How can BCMH help?

BCMH has three programs to help children with special health care needs. **All** services must be given by BCMH-approved providers.

The Diagnostic Program

Children can receive services for up to three months, from BCMH-approved providers, to rule out or diagnose a special health care need or establish a plan of treatment. These services may include:

- Tests and X-rays
- Visits to BCMH-approved doctors
- Up to five days in the hospital
- Public health nursing services
- Therapy evaluations

Financial eligibility is **not** required for the Diagnostic Program.

The Treatment Program

Children can receive services for one year, from BCMH-approved providers, for treatment of an eligible condition. Both medical **and** financial eligibility are required for the Treatment Program. Treatment services may include:

- Laboratory tests and X-rays
- Physican visits
- Prescription medications
- Therapies
- Medical equipment and supplies
- Surgeries and hospitalizations
- Service coordination
- Public health nurse services

All services must be related to the child's eligible condition. If the child remains eligible, services may be renewed each year until the child reaches age 21.

The Service Coordination Program helps families locate and coordinate services for their child. This is a limited program available to children, with specific conditions, who are seen by a team of providers at hospitals approved by BCMH for service coordination.