

Advanced PCPs: Patient-Centered Medical Home Initiative

MHMD, Memorial Hermann Physician Network, is implementing a patient-centered medical home initiative aimed at making major improvements at the primary care physician practice level.



Called *Advanced Primary Care Practices* or Advanced PCPs, the initiative builds on MHMD's Clinical Integration Program that brings Memorial Hermann medical staff physicians together in a common commitment to quality and accountability. A natural evolution of clinical integration, the Advanced PCP group is characterized by comprehensive care of patients by a team of physicians, nurses and other caregivers who collectively treat acute and chronic medical conditions and oversee wellness programs. The purpose is to create a meaningful, sustainable partnership between the patient and the provider that will enhance access to care that is evidence-based, ensure coordination of care in all settings, improve health and increase satisfaction.

"MHMD's Advanced Primary Care Practices will usher in a new era of healthcare for Memorial Hermann-affiliated physicians and their patients," says Keith Fernandez, M.D., chair of the MHMD board. "Healthcare is now more complex and difficult to navigate than ever. This collaboration between the healthcare system and its affiliated physicians will translate into better care at significant cost savings."

Central to Advanced PCPs is the embedding of innovative information technology, including a point-of-care tool and the Memorial Hermann Information Exchange (MHIE). These will provide real-time information on the health status of each patient at the time of the actual patient visit or call. Utilizing MHIE will enable the Advanced PCPs to share clinical data with each other in a privacy-protected manner that will help avoid unnecessary duplication of medical services.

Advanced PCPs must practice evidence-based medicine, and evaluate and report their performance on nationally accepted clinical and satisfaction metrics. They will promote patient self-management and embrace patient registry data collection and electronic prescribing. Advanced PCPs will engage in performance measurement and improvement activities and encourage their patients to actively participate in healthcare goal-setting and decision-making.

"The patient-centered medical home is really the new model of healthcare for the 21st century," says Kevin Giglio, M.D., Advanced PCPs physician and one of the program's leaders. "It combines family medicine's traditional hands-on approach with the latest technology and additional patient resources. MHMD's Advanced Primary Care Practices will set a new standard of excellence in healthcare."

To learn more, physicians can call 713.338.6464.