

Family To Family Health
Information Center

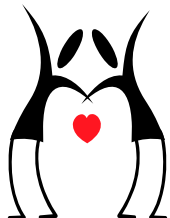
NH Family Voices

- Information
- Support Group Listing
- Lending Library
- Workshops
- Presentations
- Free Newsletter
"Pass It On"

Helping Families
through the
maze of
resources and
services.

Looking for information about a child's special health care needs? We understand the challenges families face. We identify children with special health care needs based on the impact on their lives and their families' need for related services, rather than only on their diagnosis. We assist with information about the maze of public and private services for their children and youth having special challenges; offer a listening ear and guidance to possible solutions; develop, produce and disseminate educational and resource materials and offer technical assistance and workshops on health care financing and best practices for children with special health care needs. We provide support to families to have a voice in the design, development, implementation, and monitoring of health policies and programs for children and families. We work with professionals and families to improve children's health policies and programs in ways that are helpful to families.

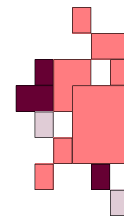
Through information, support and education, families and professionals learn to optimize the lives of our children and others who share their lives. NH Family Voices Family To Family Health Information Center offers the resources and assistance in obtaining these goals.



NH Family Voices
NHDHHS, SMS
129 Pleasant St
Concord, NH 03301

In-state only:
(800) 852-3345 X
4525 or (603) 271-4525
nhfv@yahoo.com

**Visit Our WEB
PAGE**
www.nhfv.org



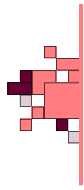
Quality Health Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs



New Hampshire
 **FAMILY VOICES**®

NH Family Voices
Family To Family Health Informa-
tion and Education Center

1-800-852-3345 X 4525 or
(603) 271-4525
www.nhfv.org



Quality Health Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs

When we founded Family Voices in 1992, one of our first activities was to identify six principles that are the foundation for quality health care for children with special needs. As health care systems change, we find growing emphasis on measuring quality in order to assure good health care practices, systems, and outcomes. We find that our six principles have stood the test of time and provide a useful framework for discussions in public and private arenas about quality health care for our children.

In a Quality Health Care System...

Quality health care...is family-centered:

- ♥ Health care services allow the child to live at home, attend local schools, be part of the community.
- ♥ The health care team honors the family's culture, language, customs, and decision-making processes.
- ♥ Families receive information about parent-to-parent support groups and other family organizations.
- ♥ Health care is delivered in locations and at times convenient for families.
- ♥ If necessary, families receive transportation assistance to get to medical appointments.
- ♥ Coordination of the child's health care, related services, and payment is explained and provided.

Quality health care...is cost-effective...continued

- ♥ The insurance plan monitors overall costs to the family, including out-of-pocket expenses.
- ♥ All payors communicate to make sure that payments are made on time.
- ♥ Family leaders help set capitation rates that cover real costs for children with special health care needs.
- ♥ Real costs are tracked to assure that our children receive necessary benefits.
- ♥ Families serve on commissions reviewing expenditures for children with special health care needs.
- ♥ When a family exceeds a lifetime cap, the insurance provider either offers a new plan with comparable benefits, or transfers the child to a new plan with comparable benefits, with no interruption in coverage, medical home, or access to specialists.

- ♥ A more detailed paper on quality is available on Family Voices website www.familyvoices.org.

- ♥ Care coordinators understand the range of services and communicate with one another and the family.
- ♥ Health services are coordinated with other services important to the child and family.
- ♥ Health care sites are accessible, providing translation services and family-friendly information.

Quality health care...supports families as caregivers:

- ♥ Families receive information about their child's diagnosis, services, expected outcomes, ways to pay, and their rights and responsibilities.
- ♥ Families can easily access medical records and other important information and documents.
- ♥ Information is communicated in family-friendly language and formats.
- ♥ Families are full members of health care teams, participating in all decisions.
- ♥ The plan of care supports the direct care given by families and describes the child's role in self-care.
- ♥ Providers and health systems give families and children opportunities to comment on care they receive.
- ♥ The plan of care includes assistance in the transition from pediatric to adult health services.

Quality health care...gives every child access to primary and specialty care:

- ♥ The child's medical home delivers well child and preventative care through guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- ♥ The primary provider knows about the child's special health condition and how to find resources.
- ♥ The primary care provider communicates effectively with specialists and other providers.
- ♥ The child receives appropriate care from pediatric specialists, based on efficient referrals.
- ♥ The family can choose primary and specialty providers, including a specialist as the primary provider.
- ♥ The child's care plan is developed by the family and providers, and is monitored often.

Quality health care...includes flexible, family-centered health benefits:

- ♥ The health insurance plan identifies and follows children with special needs.
- ♥ Covered benefits include the services that children with special health care needs require.
- ♥ The plan of care allows and describes standing referrals, access to out of network providers, extension of benefits, exceptions to policy, and supports for a family to care for the child safely at home.

- ♥ Families can easily find and use information about grievance and appeals processes.
- ♥ Health systems regularly review and address gaps in coverage and services, based on family feedback.

Quality health care...builds on strong family-professional partnerships:

- ♥ Families and providers make decisions together, with the child participating as much as possible.
- ♥ Administrative policies and practices support long-term relationships between families and providers.
- ♥ Families help professionals develop and use tools that measure quality of care and family satisfaction.
- ♥ Families participate in in-service trainings with providers, agencies and health plans.
- ♥ Families serve on statewide and local public and private policymaking boards.

Quality health care...is cost-effective:

- ♥ Public and private policies assure that families can afford their child's health care.
- ♥ Families are assisted in understanding and utilizing all payment options.
- ♥ Families have roles in making cost decisions, including vendor selection.
- ♥ Payors compare hospitalizations or other expensive treatments to alternatives, such as out of network services that might cost less or produce a better outcome at almost the same price.