



American Academy  
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

## Health Care Reform: Children Deserve High Quality Care in a Reformed Health Care System

In the October 11, 2007 edition of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Rita Mangione Smith, MD, MPH, argues that children receive the right level of care only 46 percent of the time. Additionally, a recent UNICEF study found that the United States ranked 21st out of the 22 industrial nations surveyed in child health and well being.

The Academy is committed to improving the quality of children's health care through research, education, policy analysis, and advocacy. Pediatricians need further development and use of quality and performance measures for children to achieve meaningful improvements in care. Continued federal leadership is essential in order to build on the substantial investment in pediatric quality improvement included in the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009.

It is the position of the American Academy of Pediatrics that efforts to improve quality of care in health reform should:

- ★ Strengthen child health quality improvement activities at the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- ★ Improve outcomes by gathering, analyzing and publicly reporting state-by-state data collected on child health quality measures.
- ★ Encourage development, endorsement, and updating of child-specific quality measures.

Additionally, the Academy strongly believes that all children deserve high quality medical care provided in a medical home. First pioneered by AAP in the late 1960s, the medical home has become accepted by primary care medical associations, patient and family groups, and purchasers of health care as the standard for delivery of primary health care. A medical home is not a place, but an approach to delivering primary care that is accessible, continuous, comprehensive, family-centered, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective.

It is the position of the American Academy of Pediatrics that attempts to improve our health care delivery system in health reform should:

- ★ Incentivize the medical home as a primary care model for infants, children, adolescents, and young adults.
- ★ Reform payment and delivery systems based on the principles of the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) agreed upon by physicians, employers, payers, family advocates, and public health leaders.
- ★ Recognize that in order to provide quality health care in a medical home, appropriate payment to providers of these services is essential.

**Children's health is an investment in our future. Now is the time to ensure that children receive the health and human services they need and deserve.**