

306.00

**IMPROVING CARE FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS
THROUGH MEDICAL HOMES**

T.F. Tonniges¹, M. McPherson², K. Frecerova³

¹Department of Community Pediatrics, American Academy of Pediatrics, Elk Grove Village,

*²Division of Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs, U.S. Maternal and Child
Health,*

Bureau Rockville, ³National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases, USA

ttonniges@aap.org

This session will discuss how the medical home is an effective model used to provide community-based care to children with special health care needs. Care provided in a medical home is defined by the AAP as accessible, family-centered, comprehensive, coordinated, continuous, culturally-competent, compassionate. A medical home is not a building or place, but an approach to providing high quality health care in partnership with the patient and family. Participants will learn about how systems of care in the USA and Slovakia can support the medical home model through effective collaboration across multiple public and private health care organizations. Two individuals from the U.S. will discuss the movement toward family-centered care provided within a medical home and what the U.S. Federal government is doing to support the movement. U.S. data will be presented demonstrating the number of children with special health care needs who have access to medical homes and the outcomes of receiving care through this model. Presenters will also illustrate models of how medical homes serve children with special health care needs in busy pediatric practices. Two individuals will discuss how the medical home model operates under the Slovakian model of health care and how families are partnering with physicians in Slovakia to improve the system of care for children with special health care needs. All presenters will demonstrate the effectiveness of international collaboration in achieving better health outcomes for children with special health care needs.

