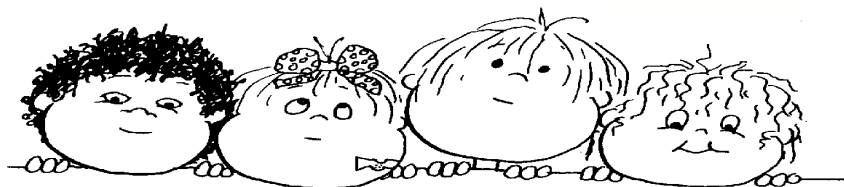


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## TIPS FOR ACCESSING HELP IN PA



### The PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Regional Nurse Consultants in each District Office

Family Health Nursing Service Consultant: Special Health Care Needs

Family Health Nursing Service Consultant: Maternal Child Health

School Health Nurse Consultant

**1-877-PA HEALTH**

[www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us)

### SPECIAL KIDS NETWORK/Recreation and Leisure

800-986-4550 [www.gotoskn.state.pa.us](http://www.gotoskn.state.pa.us)

Systems of Care 877-986-4550 TTY: 1-877-986-5432

The Special Kids Network System of Care program works to address barriers and challenges some families experience when trying to get services for their children or in just trying to help their children lead full, productive and healthy lives.

### Special Health Care Programs

PA DEPT OF HEALTH call 800-986-4550

This number is for SKN-ask to be connected to the Harrisburg Programs for the following conditions: (Income Eligibility/Use a participating provider)

Cooley's Anemia	Cystic Fibrosis	Spina Bifida
Congenital Heart	Cleft Palate	Hemophilia
Chronic Respiratory	Orthopedic	Traumatic Brain Injury
End Stage Renal Disease	Hearing/Speech/Language Impairments	

Revised August 2010

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PA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
**SCHOOL HEALTH CONSULTANTS: SHC**  
**SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS CONSULTANTS (SHCNC)**  
**MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH CONSULTANT (MCHC)**

<p>SHC: Kristin Cheslick  <a href="mailto:kcheslick@state.pa.us">kcheslick@state.pa.us</a>          SHCNC: Linda Denault  <a href="mailto:ldenault@state.pa.us">ldenault@state.pa.us</a>          MCHC: Gail Ide  <a href="mailto:gide@state.pa.us">gide@state.pa.us</a></p>	<p>665 Carey Avenue, Suite 5          Wilkes-Barre PA 18706-5485          570-826-2238 570-826-2062(fax)</p>	<p><b><u>NORTHEAST DISTRICT</u></b>          Carbon Lackawanna          Lehigh Luzerne Monroe          Northampton Pike          Susquehanna Wayne          Wyoming</p>
<p>SHC: Sheri Mountz  <a href="mailto:smountz@state.pa.us">smountz@state.pa.us</a>          SHCNC: Monika Antosy  <a href="mailto:mantosy@state.pa.us">mantosy@state.pa.us</a>          MCHC: Iwona Boraks-          Pielecharty  <a href="mailto:lboraks-pe@state.pa.us">lboraks-pe@state.pa.us</a></p>	<p>625 Cherry Street          Reading PA 19602-1187          610-378-4352 610-378-4527(fax)</p>	<p><b><u>SOUTHEAST DISTRICT</u></b>          Berks Bucks Chester          Delaware Lancaster          Montgomery Philadelphia          Schuylkill</p>
<p>SHC: Deb Frey  <a href="mailto:defray@state.pa.us">defray@state.pa.us</a>          SHCNC: Jessica Bower  <a href="mailto:jesbower@state.pa.us">jesbower@state.pa.us</a>          MCHC: Pam Klotz  <a href="mailto:pklotz@state.pa.us">pklotz@state.pa.us</a></p>	<p>1000 Commerce Park Drive          Suite 109          Williamsport PA 17701          570-327-3400 570-327-3748(fax)</p>	<p><b><u>NORTHCENTRAL DISTRICT</u></b>          Bradford Centre          Clinton Columbia          Lycoming Montour          Northumberland Potter          Snyder Sullivan          Tioga Union</p>
<p>SHC: Linda Katherman  <a href="mailto:lkatherman@state.pa.us">lkatherman@state.pa.us</a>          SHCNC: Carol Miller  <a href="mailto:carolmille@state.pa.us">carolmille@state.pa.us</a>          MCHC: Tara Clark  <a href="mailto:taclark@state.pa.us">taclark@state.pa.us</a></p>	<p>30 Kline Plaza          Harrisburg PA 17104          717-787-8092 717-772-3151(fax)</p>	<p><b><u>SOUTHCENTRAL DISTRICT</u></b>          Adams Bedford Blair          Cumberland Dauphin          Franklin Fulton          Huntingdon Juniata          Lebanon Mifflin Perry          York</p>
<p>SHC: Vacant           SHCNC: Lisa Snyder  <a href="mailto:lisnyder@state.pa.us">lisnyder@state.pa.us</a>          MCHC: Joy Gresick  <a href="mailto:jgresick@state.pa.us">jgresick@state.pa.us</a></p>	<p>19 McQuiston Drive          Jackson Center PA 16133          724-662-6068 724-662-6086          (fax)</p>	<p><b><u>NORTHWEST DISTRICT</u></b>          Cameron Clarion Clearfield          Crawford Elk Erie          Forest Jefferson Lawrence          McKean Mercer Venango          Warren</p>
<p>SHC: Joseph Donahue  <a href="mailto:jodonahue@state.pa.us">jodonahue@state.pa.us</a>          SHCNC: Carol Gettemy  <a href="mailto:cgettemy@state.pa.us">cgettemy@state.pa.us</a>          MCHC: Corrine Putt  <a href="mailto:cputt@state.pa.us">cputt@state.pa.us</a></p>	<p>233 West Otterman Street          Greensburg, PA 15601          724-830-2701 724-832-5237 (fax)</p>	<p><b><u>SOUTHWEST DISTRICT</u></b>          Allegheny Armstrong          Beaver Butler Cambria          Fayette Greene Indiana          Somerset Washington          Westmoreland</p>

**PA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH    District Office    1-877-PA HEALTH**

[www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us)

**SPECIALTY**

**District Executive Director**  
**District Nurse Administrator**  
School Health Consultant  
Maternal/Child Health Consultant  
Special Health Care Needs Consultant  
Chronic Disease Consultant/Supervisor  
Diabetes Nurse Consultant  
Injury Prevention Coordinator  
Cardiovascular Risk Coordinator  
Cancer Prevention Coordinator  
Tobacco Prevention  
Public Health Educator  
EMS Program Specialist

**District Epidemiology Manager**  
**Public Health Physician**  
Communicable Disease Consultant  
Communicable Disease Consultant  
Environmental Health Specialist  
Sanitarian  
Immunization Consultant  
Immunization Consultant  
HIV Nurse Consultant  
HIV Representative  
STD Representative  
TB Representative  
Public Health Assistant

**Office Support Staff**

**County STATE HEALTH CENTERS (SHC): PA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**Nurses are at each site.**  
**Community Health Nurse Supervisors**

You may need to contact your individual County or City Health Department  
Call 1-877-PA Health to locate the County State Health Center nearest you

**STATEWIDE RESOURCES:**

**Family to Family**

Please contact Joan Badger-Health Information Coordinator  
PEAL Center at 412-281-4404 ext 18  
866-950-1040 Toll Free 412-281-4409 TTY

**Parent to Parent of PA**

**1-888-727-2706**

[www.parenttoparent.org](http://www.parenttoparent.org)

## Health Insurance

### Apply for Medicaid/MAWD/CHIP/adultBasic on the same application:

- Call toll-free line at 1-800-986-KIDS or 1-800-GO BASIC
- Contact toll-free number of CHIP contractor by referencing:  
[www.insurance.state.pa.us](http://www.insurance.state.pa.us) keyword:CHIP or adultBasic
- Apply online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us)
- Contact your County Assistance Office under "Government" in Blue pages or  
[www.dpw.state.pa.us](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us) keyword: Medical Assistance then look for CAO link
- Welfare Hotline 1-800-692-7462 TTY/TTD 1-800-451-5886

### MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

- PARENTS of Children with Special Needs / Chronic Medical Conditions
  - Are you aware your child may be eligible for medical assistance?
  - These benefits are not dependent on parents income
  - Your child may be eligible even if you have other insurance
  - This may pay for services denied by other insurance
  - All children born premature or with disabilities should apply
  - Disability qualifications are the same as for SSI
- Contact your County Assistance Office (see above for directions)-
  - If you experience any problems: Ask to speak to the Outreach Contact Person for your county
- Write boldly on application "**MA only Child with a Disability or Complex Medical Condition**"

**CARE COORDINATION PROGRAMS:** Managed Care Plans/Access Plus- connect to the Special Needs Unit/Ask to be assigned a Case Manager

Access Plus	1(800)543-7633	TTY 1(800)618-4225	<a href="http://www.accessplus.org">http://www.accessplus.org</a>
AmeriHealth Mercy Health Plan	1(888)991-7200	TTY 1(888)987-5704	<a href="http://www.amerhealthmercyhp.com">www.amerhealthmercyhp.com</a>
Gateway Health Plan	1(800)392-1147	TTY 1(800)654-5988	<a href="http://www.gatewayhealthplan.com">http://www.gatewayhealthplan.com</a>
Unison Health Plan	1(800)414-9025	TTY 711	<a href="http://www.unisonhealthplan.com">http://www.unisonhealthplan.com</a>
AmeriChoice of PA, Inc	1(800)321-4462	TTY 1(800)654-5984	<a href="http://www.americhoice.com">http://www.americhoice.com</a>
UPMC for You . . . . . SW	1(800)286-4242	TTY 1(800)361-2629	<a href="http://www.upmchealthplan.com">http://www.upmchealthplan.com</a>
Lehigh/Cap	1(866)353-4345	TTY 1(800)361-2629	
Keystone Mercy Health Plan . . .	1(800)521-6860	TTY 1(800)684-5505	<a href="http://www.keystonemercy.com">http://www.keystonemercy.com</a>
Aetna Better Health	1(866)638-1232	TTY 711	<a href="http://aetnabetterhealth.com">http://aetnabetterhealth.com</a>
Coventry Cares-Health America	1(866)903-0748	TTY 1(800)613-3087	<a href="http://healthamerica.coventryhealthcare.com">http://healthamerica.coventryhealthcare.com</a>
Health Partners	1(800)-553-0784	TTY 1(877)454-8477	<a href="http://www.healthpart.com">http://www.healthpart.com</a>

- For current Insurance programs contact the Commonwealth of PA Insurance Department at: [www.insurance.state.pa.us](http://www.insurance.state.pa.us) or [www.heretohelp.pa.gov](http://www.heretohelp.pa.gov)  
[www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) for Health Care Reform
- Automated PA Consumer Hotline: 877-881-6388
- Caring Program: Care Coordination for Children with Special Health Care Needs and Their Families (Highmark CHIP)
  - 866-823-0892 412-544-0768 Amy Shannon
  - Information, education, referral
  - Home Visits and care plans
  - Advocacy, will attend school and physician meetings as needed



## TIPS FOR TRANSITION FROM SCHOOL TO ADULT SERVICES

[www.health.state.pa.us/transitionchecklist](http://www.health.state.pa.us/transitionchecklist)

- Get the Transition Health Care Checklist: **Transition to Adult Living in PA** and find additional resources and questions to help plan for independence.

### EDUCATION/TRANSITION HELP

Special Education CONSULT LINE 800-879-2301

IEP Facilitation helpline 800-222-3353 ext 3301 <http://odr.pattan.net>

PATTAN (PA Training & Technical Assistance Network) 800-446-5607 [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net)

PEAL-Parent Education & Advocacy Leadership Center 866-950-1040

[www.pealcenter.org](http://www.pealcenter.org)

PEN Parent Education Network 800-522-5827 [www.parentednet.org](http://www.parentednet.org)

### Need to Know-to maintain Health Insurance

- Private Insurance - Youth may be able to continue on their family's insurance plan as long as they are considered an "adult disabled dependent child" or are in school/college (page 17 of the Transition Health Care Checklist)
  - Ask Human Resources or Insurance Company for information/application. This information should include the process and form for the doctor to complete. Include all medical conditions. This may be available as the youth leaves high school
- HIPAA - The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act - stands also for portability (page 18 of the Transition Health Care Checklist) When changing Group Health Insurance get a **Certificate of Coverage** for portability. This will waive the waiting time and any increased costs for pre-existing conditions.
- Social Security as an adult is one pathway to public insurance (Medical Assistance) (page 19 of the Transition Health Care Checklist)
- Youth receiving SSDI benefits as a child will need to reapply as an adult with disabilities (page 20 of the Transition Health Care Checklist)
- Youth may want to apply for MAWD-Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (page 23 of the Transition Health Care Checklist)
- It is critical to have current evaluations and assessments including educational, medical and psychological. These are needed to apply and qualify for many services and programs
- Remember to return to the doctor for prescriptions and referrals for testing and services paid by public and private insurance
- Depending on whether private or public insurance is used as primary, explore the type and level of services available. Check if covered services meet the needs of the youth
- Be sure to show all service providers all insurance cards

**OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

**LOCAL FAMILY CENTERS or PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

**LICC**-Local Interagency Coordinating Council (Birth to five years-Parents and providers of Early Intervention). Ask your EI case worker for more information

**EARLY INTERVENTION** Call: **CONNECT 800-692-7288**

**MHMR** 0-3 years **Intermediate Unit** 3-5 years

**RIGHT TO EDUCATION TASK FORCE** (School age providers and parents)-  
Call the Intermediate Units with Pa Department of Education

**CASSP COORDINATORS:** (Children and Adolescent Service System Program)  
Located at your county MHMR office

**TRANSITION CONSUTANTS AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATORS:**  
Ask for these individuals to help with education, IEP, transition questions  
Located at the Intermediate Unit for your county

**ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LENDING LIBRARY** 800-204-7428  
<http://disabilities.temple.edu>

**(SAP) PA Network for Student Assistance Program** for each school district  
Talk with the school nurses

**VENTILATOR ASSISTED PROGRAM** 877-KID-VENT  
[www.kidshome-vent.org](http://www.kidshome-vent.org) (877-543-8368)

**AMERICAN RESPIRATORY ALLIANCE of Western PA** [www.healthylungs.org](http://www.healthylungs.org)  
Jeannie Simms, Field Program Director 800-220-1990

**AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION OF PA** [www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org) 800/932-0903

**ELKS HOME SERVICE NURSES:** [www.paelkshomeservice.org](http://www.paelkshomeservice.org)  
Pat O'Connor, RN Program Director Saint Mary's, PA 814-781-7860  
Margie Wood, RN Assistant Program Director 724-225-1395

## MEDICAL HOME PROJECTS IN PA

### PEDIATRIC MEDICAL HOME - [www.paaap.org](http://www.paaap.org)

Renee M. Turchi, MD, MPH, Principal Investigator [renee.turchi@drexelmed.edu](mailto:renee.turchi@drexelmed.edu)

Molly Gatto, Program Director [mgatto@paaap.org](mailto:mgatto@paaap.org)

PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, Rose Tree II, 1400 N. Providence Road, Media, PA 19063, 1-800-414-7392 484-446-3005 FAX 484-446-3255

### PATIENT-CENTERED MEDICAL HOME PROJECT- PA Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP)

[www.pafp.comIPIP](http://www.pafp.comIPIP)

Pat Bricker, PA IPIP State Director [pbricker@pafp.com](mailto:pbricker@pafp.com)

PAFP Foundation, 2704 Commerce Drive,

Harrisburg, PA 17110, 1-800-648-5623 717-564-5365 Fax 717-564-4235

### WHAT IS A MEDICAL HOME

A medical home is not a building, house or hospital, but rather an approach to providing health services in a high-quality and cost-effective manner. A medical home is defined as health care that includes coordination of care. With health care services for adolescents who have special needs, the focus is on promoting physical and mental health as part of a successful transition from youth to adulthood

### WHAT CAN FAMILIES AND YOUTH DO

- Contact the PAAAP or the PAFP to see if there is a medical home practice near you
- Talk with your doctors to see if they are connected to the PAAAP or PAFP and are they interested in participating in the Medical Home Projects
- For more information you or your doctors may contact the above programs

### OTHER HELPFUL WEB SITES:

PA Department of Health/Education/Welfare [www.state.pa.us](http://www.state.pa.us)  
Social Security [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) 800-772-1213 TTY 800-325-0778  
Centers for Disease Control [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)  
5 A DAY Online [www.depc.nih.gov/5aday](http://www.depc.nih.gov/5aday)  
March of Dimes [www.modimes.org](http://www.modimes.org)  
PA Developmental Disabilities Council [www.paddc.org](http://www.paddc.org)

### LEGAL ADVICE

- Americans with Disabilities Act HOTLINE 800-514-0301
- Special Needs Trusts Google: Special Needs Planning
- PA Health Law Project 1-800-274-3258 [www.phlp.org](http://www.phlp.org)
- THE DISABILITY RIGHTS NETWORK OF PA 800-692-7443  
(Formerly the Education Law Center and the Disability Law Project)  
215-238-6970 (Phil) 412-391-5225 (Pitts) [www.drnpa.org](http://www.drnpa.org)

**OTHER HELPFUL NUMBERS**

Birth Certificates 724-656-3100  
ECELS (PAAAP) 800-243-2357  
The Food ALLERGY Network 703-691-3179  
LEAD Information Line 800-440-5323  
Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222  
Pennsylvania Families Inc. 1-800-947-4941 [www.pafamiliesinc.com](http://www.pafamiliesinc.com)  
Learning Disabilities Association of America 412-342-1515  
MANAGED CARE COMPLAINTS-PA DOH 888-466-2787  
Office of Long Term Living Programs-Harrisburg 800-757-5042  
PIN (Mental Health Support) 800-688-4226  
SELF-DETERMINATION INITIATIVE OF PENNSYLVANIA 888-565-9435  
Medic Alert 800-926-3342 [medicid@medicid.org](mailto:medicid@medicid.org)  
**711 TELECOMMUNICATION RELAY SERVICE**

**The Epilepsy Foundation Western/Central Pennsylvania**

The Epilepsy Foundation Western/Central Pennsylvania (EFWCP) will ensure that people with seizures are able to participate in all life experiences; and will prevent, control and cure epilepsy through services, education, advocacy and research.

For more information, please contact your local EFWCP office or visit [www.efwp.org](http://www.efwp.org).

Pittsburgh – 1-800-361-5885  
Erie – 814-451-1135  
Johnstown – 814-262-7494  
Harrisburg – 1-800-336-0301  
TDD EOP/AUX AID – 1-800-855-2880

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**PA-Tourette Syndrome Association, Inc.**

132 West Middle Street  
Gettysburg, PA 17325

(717) 337-1134 or (800) 990-3300 [www.patourettesyndrome.org](http://www.patourettesyndrome.org)  
E-mail: [pfkpatsa@cvn.net](mailto:pfkpatsa@cvn.net)

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**Brain STEPS**

The Brain Injury School Re-Entry Program  
The Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, under contract from the PA Department of Health and partnered with the PA Department of Education, has created the Child & Adolescent Brain Injury School Re-Entry Program called **Brain STEPS** (Strategies Teaching Educators, Parents, and Students).

For more information, contact:  
Brenda Eagan Brown, M.S.Ed.  
Brain Injury School Re-entry Program Coordinator  
Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania Email: [eaganbrown@biapa.org](mailto:eaganbrown@biapa.org)  
Phone: 724-944-6542 [www.biapa.org](http://www.biapa.org)