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Community Health Center gets medical home credentials

Today

Eleven primary care centers operated by the Community Health Center in Middletown have received national recognition as a patient-centered medical home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

The health care provider, which serves largely uninsured and underserved populations in Connecticut, received the recognition for using electronic medical records and a team-based model to better coordinate patient's care.

"The primary care community has realized that we've gone far from the exam room to a lot of bureaucracy and fragmented, expensive, duplicative care," said Dr. J. Nwando Olayiwola, chief medical officer of Community Health Center, Inc. "The patient-centered medical home model gets primary care providers back to the exam room, where the focus is on the patient."

The medical home has been identified as a means of controlling costs and improving quality and health status. And the concept is a key part of the federal health care reform law.

The medical home recognition, which is valid for three years, is awarded in three levels. CHC received the highest recognition by providing written standards and measurement for patient access and communication, electronic charting tools to organize clinical information, and electronic prescription management, among other things.

CHC also has the largest number of sites in the state recognized by the program.