Transition to Adult Health Care for Youth with Special Health Care Needs

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Learning Objectives
• Recognize transition as a process that occurs over time
• Identify what young people need to know and do as part of this process
• Understand how a team approach can be effective for all involved
• Discover some potential resources to assist in the transition process

By the Way…
• Comprehensive
• Coordinated
• Collaborative
• Integrated
• Patient and family centered
• Primary care as a base
• Reflects the Medical Home Approach

Transition is a Process
• Gradual, requiring ongoing attention
• Occurs mostly in small steps forward – and sometimes a few steps backward
• Benefits from using ordinary, every day situations as learning opportunities
• Requires patience and practice!

Our Motto
• Start Small
• Start Slow
• Start Now

And Remember
“Experience is the name everyone gives their mistakes.”

-Oscar Wilde
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What Youth Need to Know

- Everyone has health care needs
- We all learn about our health care needs
- We all do better when we are encouraged to ask questions, share our concerns and express our opinions

What about Youth with Special Health Care Needs?

- Understand their own condition and the treatment or intervention needed
- Explain their condition and needed treatment or intervention to others

In Addition..

- Monitor their health on an ongoing basis
- Ask for guidance from their pediatric health care providers on how and when to make the move from pediatrics to adult care

Also..

- Learn about the systems that will apply to them as adults, such as:
  - health insurance (private or medical assistance) and its importance
  - social security and other programs
  - as well as issues like guardianship and power of attorney for health care

And finally...

- Identify both formal and informal advocacy services and supports they may need in order to be as independent as possible but utilize trusted advisors/mentors
A Final Thought

“None of us is as smart as all of us”

-Japanese Proverb

Ask a Question

Viewing online?
- Click on the chat icon above
  - Question emailed to Training Team
  - Questions answered by expert on topic
  - Response within 2-3 weeks

Acknowledgements

- WI Medical Home Webcast Series
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