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The Patient-Centered Medical Home and Preconception Care: An Opportunity for Internists

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Abstract The patient-centered medical home is defined by the American College of Physicians as a comprehensive approach for delivering medical care to patients. Internists have the role of caring for patients from adolescence through adulthood and have the opportunity to deliver preconception care. *Preconception care* is the promotion of the health and well-being of a woman and her partner before pregnancy. The goal is to improve pregnancy-related outcomes through interventions that occur before conception and before the patient would ordinarily seek prenatal care. Using the model of the patient-centered medical home, internists can provide comprehensive preconception care to improve the health of women before pregnancy and thus to decrease the risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes.

KEY WORDS patient-centered - preconception - pregnancy outcome

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