

Public Health Nurse Home Visiting Frequently Asked Questions

When did nurse home visiting begin?

- Home visiting became a national public health strategy to improve the health status of women and children in the late 19th century.

What makes nurse home visiting such a successful strategy?

- Therapeutic nurse-client relationships are built on trust, mutual respect and empowerment.
- Services start prenatally for some programs, which greatly benefits high risk parents and children.
- Nurse home visiting is comprehensive in design, so the multiple needs of families can be addressed in one visit (versus interventions that address more narrow outcomes).
- Research shows that strong home visiting programs that adhere to specific curricula, teaching protocols and vigorous monitoring are consistently successful over time.
- Families involved with nurse home visiting programs have fewer repeat pregnancies; improved maternal mental health and children's cognitive development; reduced unintentional injuries and home safety hazards; and improvement in parenting skills.

What are the different public health nurse home visiting programs?

Maternity Case Management (MCM) assists pregnant women in improving birth outcomes for themselves and their babies. Babies First! is a home visiting program for at-risk families with babies and children up to age 5. The CaCoon program serves children and youth with special health needs from birth to age 21 years. Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) nurses work with low-income young women who are pregnant for the first time, helping these vulnerable young mothers achieve healthier pregnancies and births. Families are visited from pregnancy until the child turns 2 years old.

How can public health nurse home visiting programs help Coordinated Care Organizations in Oregon?

- Compliance with perinatal care standards;
- Care coordination/care management for pregnant women and their children;
- Ongoing health and psychosocial assessments throughout the duration of the intervention;
- Anticipatory guidance and preventive services based on need;
- Early identification of problems and swift intervention;
- Timely patient-centered communication and information exchange.

What are the potential benefits of partnering with public health nurse home visiting programs?

- Improved outcomes for plan members
- Reductions in risk factors that lead to chronic conditions
- Reductions in costs due to ED visits
- Better patient compliance with medical provider's instructions
- Improvements in HEDIS and other quality metrics

"With our nurse, you know she truly, genuinely cares about you and your child." – CaCoon Client



At a glance:

Nurse home visiting has been working for over 100 years.

Nurse home visiting is associated with positive outcomes for children and families.

Family needs are complex, and nurse home visitors can help address multiple challenges that families face.

Nurse home visitors can provide assistance for parents, children and youth from pregnancy through 21 years of age, depending on the family's needs.