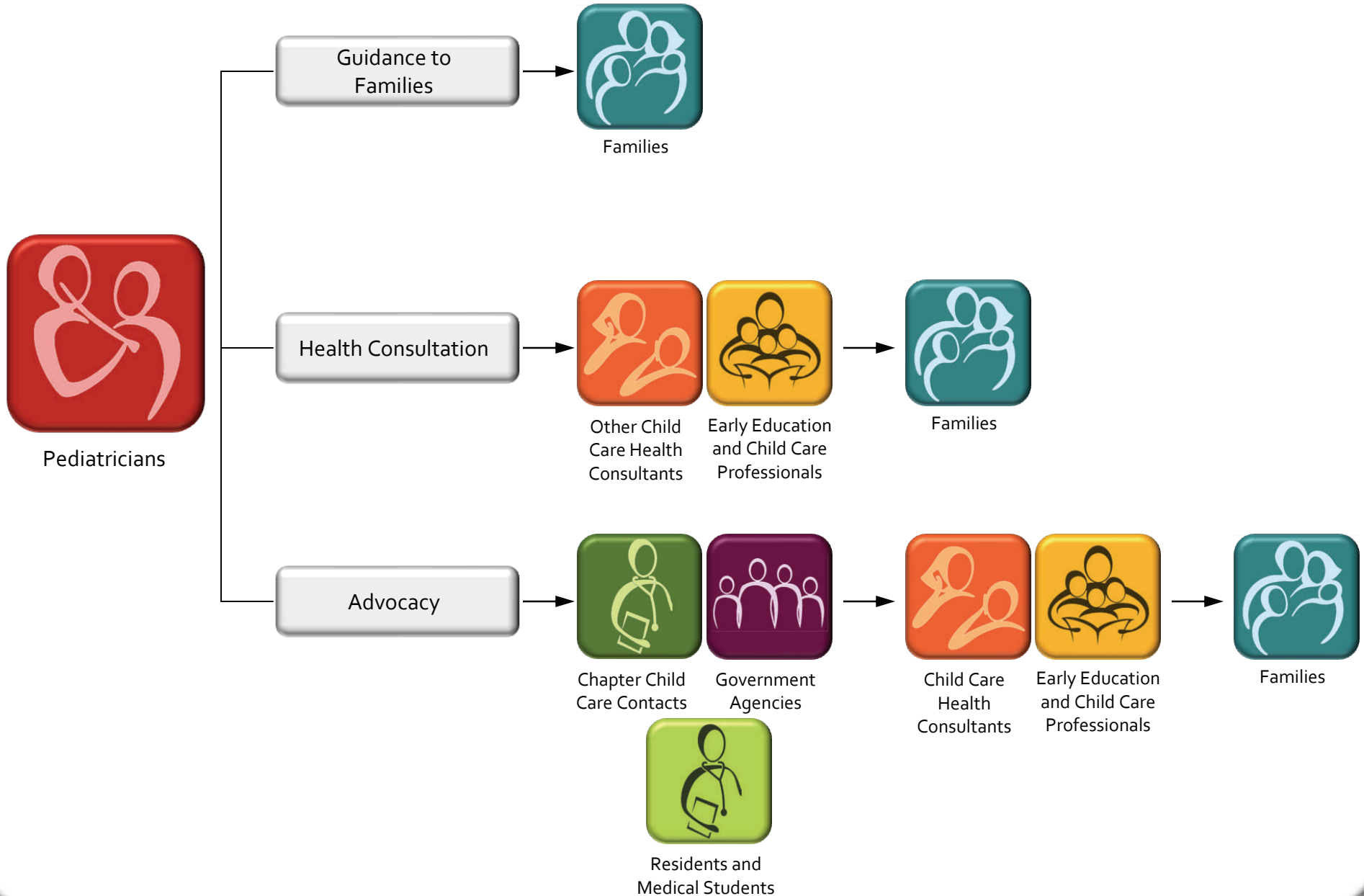


THE IMPACT OF PEDIATRICIANS ON EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE





THE IMPACT OF PEDIATRICIANS ON EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

Guidance to Families

Pediatricians can:

- Help families weigh their child care options.
- Provide information on finding and evaluating child care.
- Underscore the importance of quality child care.
- On an ongoing basis, discuss the parents' observations of their child's experiences and response to child care.
- Develop an individual care plan for children with special needs.
- Address parent questions and concerns.
- Promote a 3-way partnership among the pediatrician, family, and caregiver.

Health Consultation

Pediatricians can:

- Provide child care health consultation services to a local child care program by observing and providing input on the health and safety related strengths and needed improvements in the environment and program operation as well as addressing concerns raised by the child care staff on an ongoing basis.
- Ensure that each enrolled child has a medical home, respecting the difference between program consultation and clinical relationships.
- Resolve apparently conflicting health and safety advice that the child care program receives from different sources.
- Conduct health education for staff, parents, and children.
- Mentor other child care health consultants by providing technical assistance by phone or e-mail.

Advocacy

Pediatricians can:

- Serve on an advisory board (eg, a Head Start program or a child care resource and referral agency's Board of Directors).
- Conduct workshops on child development, health, and safety.
- Participate in early childhood professional organizations and conferences.
- Serve as their AAP's Chapter Child Care Contact, which may include:
 - Participating on the Early Childhood Advisory Council
 - Assisting government agencies (eg, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems, Child Care and Development Fund State Administrators, etc)
 - Comparing the state's child care licensing regulations with AAP recommended guidelines, and determining how they can work to enhance or improve existing regulations
- Advocate for policy that supports health and development information exchange and partnership between the medical home, families, and child care community.
- Write articles on health for child care newsletters .
- Conduct research on health and safety in child care.
- Teach pediatric residents and medical students about child care.
- Teach other pediatricians about their role in promoting health and safety in child care.



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