

# Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) Program



**Lorain County  
Public Health**

For the Health of Us All

## What is CMH?

Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH, formerly known as BCMH) is a healthcare program in the Ohio Department of Health that promotes the early identification of children with special health care needs and the referral of those children to quality medical providers for diagnosis and treatment.

Children with special health care needs are defined as those who have or are at increased risk for a chronic physically handicapping condition that can be treated and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally.

## What are examples of CMH services?

- **Diagnostic evaluations** which include diagnostic tests, x-rays, therapy evaluations, and biopsies
- **Treatment services** which include prescription medications, dental services, physician visits, lab tests and x-rays, special formula, and hearing aids
- **Public health nursing** which includes home visits, advocacy, and referrals to community agencies
- **Service coordination** within the hospital

## How do I get started?

Visit [odh.ohio.gov](http://odh.ohio.gov) or call 1-800-755-4769.

Or, contact CMH public health nurses at your local health department: 440-322-6367.

## Who might be eligible for CMH?

- Children, age 0-21, who are residents of Ohio
- Who may have a medically handicapping condition
- Who are under the care of a CMH-approved physician
- Financial eligibility is required only for treatment services

## What are some medically eligible conditions?

- Asthma
- Birth defects
- Cerebral palsy
- Childhood cancers
- Cystic fibrosis
- Diabetes
- Epilepsy
- Hearing loss
- Heart/lung conditions
- Hemophilia
- Metabolic disorders
- Sickle cell disease

## How can I pay for special care for my child?

Families who have children with chronic illness or physical disability may be eligible to receive services from private insurance, Medicaid, and CMH.



Rev. 04/19

**Lorain County Public Health**

9800 South Murray Ridge Road, Elyria, OH 44035 PHONE (440) 322-6367 FAX (440) 311-0911 [LorainCountyHealth.com](http://LorainCountyHealth.com)