What is a Public Health Nurse?

And how do they work with the BCMH Program?
This brochure will help explain how a Public Health Nurse (PHN) can help your family and how they work with the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps Program (BCMH).

**A PHN is skilled in working with children and their families. They are also experts on available assistance in your community.**

Your PHN is a registered nurse hired by Franklin County Public Health to work with children (ages 0 – 21 years) enrolled in BCMH. A PHN can be an important resource for families who may be working with many agencies and providers of care for their child.

BCMH is administered by the Ohio Department of Health. It links families of children with special health care needs to a PHN and other health care providers. The program helps families obtain payment for the medical services their child needs.

**PHNs work with BCMH to:**

- Help identify children with special health care needs.
- Make sure children with special needs are referred to appropriate doctors and other support services.
- Help your family find and use the services needed for your child.
- Provide you with health care information.

**PHNs can provide the following services:**

- Help you learn about your child’s growth and development.
- Explain the BCMH program, the Letter of Approval and other BCMH paperwork.
- Help you understand your child’s plan of treatment.
- Help you fill out forms for BCMH.
- Help you locate BCMH providers to give services to your child.
- Work with other agencies to make sure your child’s needs are met.
- Help you understand and work with your medical insurance plan.
- Help you with appeals of denied services.
- Keep in touch through phone calls, letters, and home visits.