

I am the mother of a 10-year-old, severely disabled child. I moved to Florida this past year knowing that I needed to put doctors and services together for my son. Raising a disabled child is extremely difficult, and sometimes leaves the parent feeling lost, overwhelmed, and frustrated, on top of the daily care we still have to provide for our disabled child. I remained lost and overwhelmed until I was introduced to the PIC Program. PIC helped put things in order, from health care, to transportation, to spiritual and emotional support, that families in our special situation need. PIC not only put things back in perspective for me as far as creating a care plan for my son, they took a lot of the added stress and feelings of being overwhelmed away, so that we could function as closely to a normal family as possible. PIC helped me become a better and more able caregiver to my son. Thank you PIC!

*Collin and his mother (below)*



PIC:TFK is a partnership between the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Florida Department of Health—Children’s Medical Services, and Florida Hospices and Palliative Care, the state’s hospice organization.



A Children’s Hospice International Program for All-Inclusive Care for Children and Their Families® (CHI PACC®)

Visit the PIC:TFK Website:

[www.cms-kids.com/families/health\\_services/pic.html](http://www.cms-kids.com/families/health_services/pic.html)

## Partners in Care: Together for Kids (PIC:TFK)



*A palliative care program for children and their families*



Tens of thousands of families each year must face the experience of having a child diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. These families often fail to receive the compassionate and consistent support that meets their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. To address these needs, Florida has developed a program that provides palliative care and specialized support services to children with life-threatening illnesses and their families. The ***Partners in Care: Together for Kids (PIC:TFK)*** Program will enable children who are receiving curative care for potentially life-threatening medical conditions to benefit from an overlay of hospice-like services.

## What is palliative care?

Palliative care is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families who are facing a life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification, assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual. Hospice is known for its expertise in providing palliative care and other support services.

## What types of support and services are offered by PIC:TFK?

In addition to the medical services provided through the Children's Medical Services Managed Care Plan (CMS Plan), palliative care services provided by the PIC:TFK Program include the following:

- **Pain and symptom management**
- **Therapeutic counseling for child and family**
- **Expressive therapies for children**
- **Respite care**
- **Specialized nursing care**
- **Specialized personal care**
- **Bereavement counseling**

## Who provides PIC:TFK services?

The services offered through PIC:TFK are provided in partnership with CMS by the staff of a hospice that has met the qualifications to participate in PIC:TFK and has completed specialized training in pediatric palliative care.

Although hospice team members provide these services due to their expertise in pediatric palliative care, children receiving PIC:TFK services are not hospice patients.

## Who is eligible to receive PIC:TFK services?

Children who meet the following criteria may be eligible for PIC:TFK services:

- Enrolled in the CMS Plan
- Diagnosed with a life-threatening condition by a CMS physician
- Reside within an area of the state with an available provider

## Who do I contact to find out more about the PIC:TFK Program?

To find out more about the PIC:TFK Program in a specific area, contact your local CMS Area Office directly.

For general program information contact the Florida Department of Health's CMS Plan Office at 850-245-4200 or Florida Hospices and Palliative Care organization's toll-free line at 800-282-6560.

