

## Adolescent Privacy Practices

Starting with the first encounter with your pediatrician, the primary goal has been to collaborate with you, their parent, to raise a healthy child. As an adolescent, our goals shift to one that allows your child to have more active participation in their interactions with their doctor. **We support the valuable role our families play in their adolescent's life. We actively encourage open communication between adolescents and their parents/guardians.**

This shift allows two important factors:

- Allowing confidentiality between patient and physician
- Allow responsibility for health decisions to transition from parent/guardian to the adolescent

## Confidentiality

We strive to provide the best care for your adolescent. This requires honesty between patient and physician. Private time with their physician allows:

- Assurance of confidentiality
- A willingness to be more open in conversation

There are certain situations that require a pediatrician to overrule these confidentiality protections and notify a parent/guardian or other agency without the permission of the adolescent.

Some examples include:

- Cases of abuse or harm to the adolescent
- Concerns of self-harm or harming others
- Unsafe behavior

## Shifting Responsibilities for Health Decisions

This shift in responsibilities allows for a few things:

- Better preparation for your child as they approach adulthood
- Independence
- Familiarizing your child with their medications, allergies and general health
- Giving the adolescent primary access to their medical records through our portal. At age 13, HIPAA does limit a parent's access to records online.

Prior to their appointment, collaborate with your child to compile a list of questions or concerns to discuss with their pediatrician.

**Please note:** Once the adolescent turns 18 years old, they will have sole access to their health information, unless written permission is given by your adult child to share information.

## What's Next?

At your next visit you'll see some changes:

- Your child is encouraged to come back for the first part of the exam by themselves
- We will collect your child's email address to transition their portal page over to them at the age of 13

Just remember, **you can join your child at the end of the appointment to discuss your concerns with their pediatrician. If you have any questions, ask your nurse/doctor during this visit today.**