

CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE INC.

ADOLESCENT PRIVACY POLICY

When a child reaches their teen years the relationship between the child, parent and health care provider tends to change. Teenagers are often unwilling to discuss certain topics with their physician unless they are assured confidentiality. Therefore state laws require that adolescents be able to seek care for certain conditions without parental consent.* These conditions include problems related to drug or alcohol use, sexual activity, contraception and mental health concerns. Therefore, starting with the 12 year old physical exam, parents/guardians will be asked to wait in the waiting room for part of the patient's visit.

*If a teen's behavior presents a serious threat to his/her life or the life of another person, only then can a provider overrule these confidentiality laws and share information with a parent/guardian without the teen's permission.

It is important for you to be aware that our providers would never encourage a teen to keep secrets from their parents or guardians. We believe in the value of the family unit and its importance in helping teens to make good choices for themselves. Our providers will always do their best to help adolescents to open up the lines of communication with their family.

Thank you.