

## TO OUR PATIENTS WHO ARE 17 YEARS AND OLDER

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

When you turn 18 years old, you become an adult under the law. During your teens, you've practiced how to ask questions and make decisions about your own health. When you turn 18, you will have some new rights and responsibilities.

- You will have the right to make your own health decisions.
- You will have the right to privacy in your health care.
- You will have the right to decide whether to share your health information with your parents or anyone else.
- You will have the right to meet with your provider privately. Your parents will not come into the exam room unless you request.
- Your provider will not share your questions or conversation with your parents or anyone else unless you request.
- We will not give your medical records to your parents or anyone else unless you request it in writing.

Please be aware of an exception to your privacy. If you receive health insurance under your parent's policy, the insurance company might send forms to you parents or to your parent's address. The forms might state what kind of health care you received.

You have legal rights to privacy as an adult. But you may choose to share your information with your parents or another adult if you wish. Your parents may remain an important part of your support team as you become a young adult. If you would like us to share your medical record with someone, you may sign a written permission form. Please ask us for the form.

We have many young adult patients. You may continue to see your health care provider here until you are 21 years old. When you are 18-21 years old, we will work with you to plan how to transition to adult care by the time you turn 21.

Thank you for being our patient!