SPARKLERS

Colorado Confidentiality Laws





Briana, a 15-year-old girl, is requesting an IUD and does not have the consent of her parent. What do you do?

a. Tell the patient that she has to come back with a parent's consent.

b. Inform the patient that you can and will perform the procedure, but must call a parent to notify them.

c. Explain to the patient that you can perform the procedure without parental consent, but if she pays with her parent's insurance, they may receive an Explanation of Benefits.

Answer: c. Explain to Briana that you can perform the procedure without parental consent, but if she pays with her parent's insurance, they may receive an Explanation of Benefits.

Michael is 14 and is requesting a chlamydia test. He doesn't want to tell his dad, who's in the waiting room. Does he need consent from his father?

a. Yes

b. No

Answer: No.

All minors have the right to consent to STI testing, treatment, and preventive services without a parent's consent. However, the provider must encourage Michael to talk with a parent or guardian.



Remember, it's best practice in most cases for a provider to encourage teens to talk to their parents/guardians, even if consent is not required. Encouraging this dialogue can be an opportunity to set up successful parent/teen communication.

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Jade is 16 years old. Can she receive a pregnancy test AND prenatal care without informing her parents?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Answer: Yes. Minors have the right to pregnancy testing and prenatal care without parent/guardian consent.

Which of these options below do not require parental consent?

- a. Opioid replacement treatment for a 16-year-old
- b. ADHD medication for a 13 year-old
- c. Inpatient mental health treatment for a 13-year-old
- d. Depo Provera contraceptive shot

Answer: d. Depo Provera contraceptive shot. All other options require a parent's consent.

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Carlos is 15 years old and needs mental health care. Which of these statements is true for him?

a. He can consent to counseling without his parent's knowledge or consent.

b. If he needs to, he can consent to depression medication without his parent's consent.

c. If he needs to, he can get inpatient treatment without his parent's consent.

d. Actually, he needs to get his parent's consent for any sort of mental health treatment.

Answer: a and c. Starting at age 12, minors have additional protections around outpatient mental health services and at 15, have access to inpatient patient mental health services. Since he's 15, Carlos can consent to counseling or inpatient treatment without his parent's knowledge or consent, but would still need a parent to consent for mental health medications. However, his mental health service provider *may* advise his parent of services provided or needed.

Which of the following requires parent/guardian consent?

- a. Emergency care a "life or limb" situation
- b. Most sexual health services
- c. The influenza vaccine
- d. Outpatient substance use treatment

Answer: c. Vaccines that are not used to prevent viruses transmitted sexually, such as the influenza vaccine, require a parent's/guardian's consent.

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