SPARKLERS

Illinois Confidentiality Laws





Briana, a 15-year-old girl who is covered by Medicaid, 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 her parents may receive an Explanation of Benefits.

Answer: (c.) Explain to Briana that you can perform the procedure without parental consent since she is covered under Medicaid,

but her parents could 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. Minors may consent on their own to testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections. Maintaining client confidentiality can be an important part of insuring access to care and a health care provider who treats a minor ordinarily must not notify the minor's parent or guardian about the treatment without the minor's expressed permission.





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Adolescent Health Initiative

Remember, it's best practice in many 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 her parents' consent?

a. Yes

b. No

Answer: Yes. Illinois law states that minors are able to consent to prevention, diagnosis and treatment of pregnancy.

Which of these options below require parental consent for a 17-year-old teen living with her parents?

- a. HPV vaccine
- b. Abortion
- c. Treatment for controlled substances or alcohol
- d. Admission to an inpatient mental health facility

Answer: (a.) Minors may not receive the HPV vaccine without a parent's consent. All other options DO NOT require a parent's consent.

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Carlos is 14 years old and needs mental health care. Which of these statements is true for him?

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

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

c. He needs to get his parent's consent for any sort of mental health treatment.

Answer: (a.) Minors ages 12-16 years old do not need parental consent for outpatient mental health screening

and treatment, for up to eight 90-minute sessions. Parental consent is needed to continue unless counselor believes it's in the minor's best interest to continue or that parental involvement would be detrimental to minor's well-being.

Which of the following require parent/guardian consent?

- a. Emergency care
- b. Any care for legally emancipated minors
- c. Contraceptives
- d. Medication for treatment of depression
- e. Treatment for HIV
- f. Substance use treatment

Answer: (d.)

• Unless it is considered emergency care, the administration of any psychotropic medications to a minor requires parental consent.

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