#### **SPARKLERS**

#### Wyoming Confidentiality Laws





# Briana, a 15-year-old girl who is requesting emergency care 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 attempt to 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: (b.) Inform the patient that you can and will perform the procedure, but must attempt to call a parent to notify them.

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.



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 and comes in to receive sexual assault care, without her parents. Are you able to provide care?

a. Yes b. No

Answer: (a.) Yes. According to Wyoming Law, you

can provide Jade care if the parents or guardian of the minor cannot be located promptly with diligent effort.

Which of these options below require parental consent for a 17-year-old teen living with apart from their parents and manages their own affairs?

- a HPV vaccine
- b. Abortion
- c. Treatment for controlled substances or alcohol

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d. None of these

Answer: (d.) None of these. Minors who are living apart from his/her parents or guardian and managing his/her own affairs regardless of his source of income do not require parental consent for health care services.



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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.

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

a. He can consent to tobacco cessation services without his parent's consent.

b. He needs to get his parent's consent to receive any sort of tobacco cessation services.

c. The law is not clear on this.

Answer: (a.) He can consent to tobacco cessation services without his parent's consent. Minors can consent to tobacco cessation services as long as they are 12 years of age or older, is a smoker or user of tobacco products, and the health care to which the minor consents is a tobacco cessation program approved by the department of health.

