



POLICY: 13 year old and Older Privacy Policy
TRANSITION TO ADULT HEALTH CARE

9-1-19

Julia Barriga, M.D., P.A.'s Teen Transition to Adult Health Care Policy follows the following Policy:

13 Years Old to 17 Years Old Patients

Patients beginning at age 13 years, part of a patient's medical visit will generally be in private, and the parent/guardian may be asked to step out of the exam room if the adolescent requests it. The patient may ask for the parent/guardian or nurse to be present in the exam room. Discussions of certain sensitive issues, such as sexual and mental health and substance use, will remain confidential and will not be shared with the parent/guardian unless the adolescent consents. Medical records documenting the corresponding portions of the medical exam and discussion also will be treated as confidential, to the extent required by law, and will be released to a parent/guardian or other person only with the patient's written authorization.

This Policy would not apply for adolescent patients who have developmental disabilities or other special health needs, it may be necessary and appropriate to modify these policies to accommodate their needs. We welcome patients and parent/guardians to discuss social needs with us, so that we may plan reasonable accommodations together.

Julia Barriga, M.D., P.A. will inform the parent/guardian of any life-threatening situation or behavior involving any patient younger than age 18 years, whether disclosed by the patient or becoming evident through medical examination. In this case, we will inform the patient that we have a legal obligation to disclose this information to the parent/guardian.

18 Years Old Patients

Patient 18 years and older: Patients 18 years and older are adults under the law. Patients under age 18 who have been emancipated (through marriage, pregnancy, etc.) are also considered adults under the law.

Julia Barriga, M.D., P.A. will respect these patients right to make their own health care decisions and manage their own health care, unless a court has determined that they are not able to do so and has appointed a legal guardian. Please provide us a copy of the court's decree or equivalent documentation, if you have been appointed the legal guardian. Please provide us a copy of the court's decree or equivalent documentation if you have been appointed the legal guardian of your adult child, so that we may conform to the terms of your guardianship.

Julia Barriga, M.D., P.A. will respect the right of patients age 18 years and older to privacy regarding their health information and records. Providers will meet with and examine these patients privately unless the patient requests that the parent or other person be present. A young adult patient may authorize a parent or other person to receive medical information or records by signing a release of information.

Insurer's privacy policies: Please be aware that young adults and children who are insured under a parent's family policy might receive statements from the insurer at the parent's address. Contact the insurance to learn about their Privacy Policies. Julia Barriga, M.D., P.A. has no control over their privacy policies.

Transitioning from pediatric to adult health care

Julia Barriga, M.D., P.A. serves patients from birth to 18 years of age. After patient turns 18 years old and before they turn 19 years old, patients should transition to an adult primary care provider (usually a Doctor, practicing Family Medicine or Internal Medicine), as well as adult specialist providers for any medical specialty care the patient may receive. We encourage you to start collecting information about adult health care providers well before this age, usually around age 18 years. Remember to check with your Insurance Company.

We are available to discuss health care transition with patients and families. We are committed to partnering with you throughout the process to assure a smooth transition.

Once you select your adult provider, please sign a Medical Records Release Form promptly so we may send your medical records to this provider. You may use Julia Barriga, M.D., P.A.'s release form at www.juliabarrigamd.com website or the form from the adult provider's office. Please be aware that Julia Barriga, M.D., P.A. disposes of medical records according to state law. This generally means that we retain records for seven years after the last date of service or until age 18 years, whichever is longer.