

## **Healthcare Transition Policy**

We want to make sure our patients' transfer from pediatric/adolescent to adult health care is smooth. In this process, we work with patients and families to prepare them for the change from a "pediatric" model of care, where parents and caregivers make most decisions, to an "adult" model of care, where young adult patients are responsible for making decisions. It is important to know that:

- As our patients become teenagers, part of their visits will be alone with their provider. This is to help them become more independent with their own healthcare.
- When our patients turn 18, they become adults under the law and are considered able to make decisions about their health care. We respect that many patients choose to continue to have their families help with health care decisions. However, we will only be able to discuss personal health information with family members with the patient's consent.
- Youth with special health care needs may need more time to transfer to adult care. We can help parents find more information about guardianship, as needed.

The care team will help teens and families prepare to transfer to an adult healthcare provider usually **before the age of 22**. We will help find an adult provider and discuss with them our patients' health information and unique needs.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. See contact information below.

**Your Care Team:**

**Contact Number:**