



Dear Parent of a Teenager:

At Women's Healthcare Associates, LLC, we want to provide the best healthcare for your teenager. We invite you to be partners in your teen's healthcare and we encourage open communication between parent, teen and practitioner. While many adolescent girls are accompanied to the office visit by their parent or guardian, we will often see teenagers by themselves. This gives them a chance to learn how to take care of their health. It also gives them a chance to talk to us privately if they wish. Again, we will always encourage teenagers to talk to a parent about important health issues.

It is important for you to know that we offer your teenager "confidential" services. Confidentiality is important in taking care of teens because many teenagers won't tell their provider the truth if they think it will get back to their parents. "Confidential" means if a teenager tells us something, we don't tell anyone else, including the parents or school unless the teen gives us permission. There is an exception to this: if we think there is a serious threat to the teenager's health, then we will tell the teen's parents. We will let the teen know about this exception beforehand.

In Oregon, minors 15 years and older may give their own consent for treatment by a healthcare practitioner. This ability to give consent for care means they are protected by certain Federal and State privacy laws which might restrict the parent's access to the teen's medical record without the teen's consent. Again, our preference is for open communication between parents and their children, but we will respect a teen's request for confidentiality, as we do for all of our patients.

We look forward to taking care of your teenager. Please feel free to talk to us about any concerns you have about your teen.

Women's Healthcare Associates, LLC