

**Rivergate Pediatrics, PC** is committed to helping our patients make a smooth transition from pediatric to adult health care. This process involves working with youth, beginning at ages (12 to 14), and their families to prepare for the change from a “pediatric” model of care where parents make most decisions to an “adult” model of care where youth take full responsibility for decision-making. This means that we will spend time during the visit with the teen without the parent present in order to assist them in setting health priorities and supporting them in becoming more independent with their own health care.

At age 18, youth legally become adults. We respect that many of our young adult patients choose to continue to involve their families in health care decisions. Only with the young adult’s consent will we be able to discuss any personal health information with family members. If the youth has a condition that prevents him/her from making health care decisions, we encourage parents/caregivers to consider options for supported decision-making.

We will collaborate with youth and families regarding the age for transferring to an adult provider and recommend that this transfer occur before age 22 years or younger for those with the following situations.

- Youth who are parents - We look forward to caring for your children but youth who are parents will need to transfer their healthcare
- Youth who enter work force instead of further education
- Youth with adult health conditions – Youth with more adult type health conditions like high blood pressure are better served by Physicians who serve adults

We will assist with this transfer process, including helping to identify an adult provider, sending medical records, and communicating with the adult provider about the unique needs of our patients.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

