

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Policy Title: WCC Treatment of Teen		Policy No:
Originating Department: WCC	Affected Departments or Scope: All Departments WCC	

Purpose:

To standardize the care and treatment of teens who are seen by Women's Care Center providers. Teens will be defined as minors between 12 and 18 years old.

Policy:

The state of North Carolina law specifically addresses the care and treatment of minors. The law states minors may give effective consent for "medical health services for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease and other reportable diseases, pregnancy, abuse of controlled substances or alcohol and emotional disturbances." It also does not place restrictions on family planning.

The patient-provider relationship is one built on the sharing of information and allows for the autonomy of the patient and their best interests to be evaluated. For minors, the care of the patient is shared also with the parent(s) or guardians. This policy will differentiate what part of the visit will be shared with the patient and parent(s) or guardians and what will be shared exclusively with the teen.

The first visit for a teen can be very frightening and most teens are nervous about having their first OB/GYN exam. It is important that their feelings be acknowledged and addressed. The mood of the first visit will set the stage for establishing a trusting relationship with their OB/GYN.

Procedure:

The following steps will be completed at the teen's initial OB/GYN appointment and at subsequent appointments as deemed necessary to maintain good communication between staff, patients and their families.

1. The clinical staff will call the teen and parent(s) or guardian to the provider's exam room. If the teen is not accompanied by anyone, the staff will call only the patient to the exam room.
2. The clinical staff and provider will collect relevant information about the teen from the patient and caregiver, if present. The parent(s) or guardians are crucial to this interview process as they may be able to provide a more thorough history. Their participation is encouraged but not mandatory.
3. The clinical staff will provide the patient and parent(s) or guardian, if present, with A Note to Parents from Your Teen's Doctor handout that explains what type of information will be discussed and why the parent(s) or guardian will be asked to wait outside the exam room.
4. The clinical staff will review and have the patient and parent(s) or guardian, if present, sign the *Reproductive Health Care Confidentiality Agreement*.
5. The clinical staff will provide the patient the educational brochure, Your First Gynecologic Visit.
6. After the patient's history is obtained and the patient and parent's or guardian's questions are answered, the parent(s) or guardians, if present, will be asked to wait for the remainder of the visit in the waiting area unless the teen requests that they stay.
7. All services are confidential and will not be shared with the parent(s) or guardians without the teen's permission.

Approved By: WCC Department	Effective Date:
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