

Consent to Treat a Minor Information Sheet

The providers and staff of Pullman Regional Hospital Clinic Network place great emphasis on the health and well-being of each and every patient in our clinic and we appreciate that you have entrusted us to provide healthcare services to your minor child or dependent. We look forward to working with you to ensure that your child or dependent receives the best health care possible.

As a general rule, we require the consent of a parent or legal guardian in order to provide healthcare services to a minor child (an unmarried person under the age of 18). With so many parents working outside the home or with other commitments, we realize that you may not be able to accompany your child on every visit to the clinic. If your minor child presents to the clinic unaccompanied or in the company of an adult other than a parent or legal guardian, we will do our best to contact you for consent. Depending on the reason for the visit, if we are unable to obtain your consent, we may need to reschedule the appointment.

In an effort to provide the care needed and avoid having to reschedule your child's appointment, we have developed an 'Advanced Consent for the Treatment of a Minor' form that, once completed by a parent or legal guardian, will be placed in your child or dependent's medical record for use as necessary. This form will allow us to provide routine and emergency medical treatment for your minor child when deemed necessary by qualified medical personnel. This consent form will remain in effect until revoked in writing. You may request this form from any member of our office staff.

Pullman Regional Hospital Clinic Network will follow Washington State law, unless the statute is superseded by Federal law. Under Washington State law, minors have the right to consent to certain health care without a parent or guardian's consent. A minor may consent to medical care:

- If the minor is emancipated (legally independent) or married to someone at or above the age of 18. (RCW 26.28.020)
- In the event emergency care is necessary and when it is impractical to get parental consent first.
- For birth control and pregnancy-related care at any age. (See State v. Koome)
- For outpatient drug- and alcohol-abuse treatment beginning at age 13. (RCW 70.96A.095)
- For outpatient mental health treatment beginning at age 13. (RCW 71.34.500 and 71.34.530)
- For sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/Aids, beginning at age 14. (RCW 70.24.110)

If a minor consents to care as allowed by law, he or she can request confidentiality for that aspect of care which would prohibit us from releasing this information to anyone, including a parent or guardian, without the minor's express written permission.

It is the philosophy of Pullman Regional Hospital Clinic Network to encourage minor patients to include a parent, guardian, or other trusted adult in all aspects of their healthcare, including those areas noted above. For legal and other reasons, parent or guardian involvement may not always be possible. Rest assured that we would continue to provide health care services that are in the best interest of your minor child or dependent.

If you have questions regarding any of this information, please contact your child or dependent's primary care provider.