

The Carithers Pediatric Group

Policy for Transition to Adult Care

The Carithers Pediatric Group 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 16 to 17, 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 may 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 require that this transfer occur by the 22nd birthday. (There may be some occasions where it is in the best interest of the patient to transfer earlier, should he/she need adult subspecialists and experts in adult medicine.) 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.

During this time of emerging adulthood, it is especially important that they keep up with annual check-ups for the best quality care, addressing their changing needs.

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