



Delaware Pediatrics, LLP

"making it all better"

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Thank you for trusting us with your adolescent's health and well-being. Adolescence is a unique time in your child's stage of life and we would like to inform you about how we, as your child's pediatrician, care for your child during these years.

You will notice changes in your child's care starting at the age of 13 years. At this age your child is given more rights to confidentiality and decision making, as set forth by New York State and recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

As part of a comprehensive health care visit, we will be screening your teenager for high risk behaviors. This will include discussions about inhaled substances, drugs, alcohol, sexual activity, and depression. Most screenings will take place during the office visit.

One of these screenings includes a routine test for chlamydia, one of the most commonly reported sexually transmitted diseases in the United States. This screen is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the New York State Department of Health. We will ask for a urine sample, which is then sent to the laboratory for testing. Your son/daughter will be notified of the results. Your insurance company will process this as a laboratory service on your explanation of benefits and the cost may be part of your deductible.

We will screen your child for depression at every well visit starting at the age of 12 years. We use a standard screening tool that will prompt 2-9 questions. This may also be part of your deductible depending on your insurance.

You will also notice that your child will have more control of his/her health records as they get older. This will affect access to the patient portal. We will discuss this with you as the age approaches. We will answer any questions that you may have

We appreciate your support in caring for your teenager and we hope to offer them the best comprehensive health care.

Sincerely,

Delaware Pediatrics