

Your Health Is Important!

Need more information? We want you and your parents to be comfortable with the quality and confidentiality of the care you receive in our facility!

We follow federal laws for minors being treated at a Medical Facility.

You may refer to our hospital instruction 632026 regarding informed consent in the care and treatment of patients. This includes references to the treatment and care of minors and consent issues.



Call us if you have any further questions. We are happy to answer questions of teens and parents

Helping you help yourself to be a healthy person. Comprehensive preventative health care, acute health care, and specialty care for infants, children, and adolescents.

Let us steer your course to health!

Naval Hospital Oak Harbor

Pediatrics Team

Family Medicine

NAVAL HOSPITAL OKINAWA

**Commanding Officer
Pediatric Clinic
FPO, AP 96362-1600**

Phone: 315-643-7304

Teenagers and Medical Care

Naval Hospital Okinawa



Information for you and your parents on confidential care and consent of minors

Confidential Care

Becoming a teenager is an important milestone and the teen years can sometimes be difficult to navigate. As your healthcare team, we are here to help you stay as fit and as healthy as possible. You are entitled to



confidential care and by Federal Law, you can obtain health care for certain services without parental consent. We always encourage open communication, but realize that when that is

not possible, at least providing comprehensive and confidential care provides you with necessary treatment.

-If you have the need to come in for a routine appointment without your parent(s), this can be accommodated if you have appropriate documentation. Please see medical records or your clinic for further details on arranging this if needed.

What is the law?

The Federal Law state, the general age of majority for health care is 18 years of age but a single, unemancipated adolescent can receive treatment without parental consent for certain services.

When can I be seen without my parent(s)?

- You may choose or refuse birth control services at age 14 years and older without the consent of a parent or guardian
- You may receive outpatient mental health counseling if you are thirteen years of age or older without the consent of a parent or guardian
- You may receive outpatient substance abuse treatment if you are thirteen years of age or older without the consent of a parent or guardian
- If you are over 18 years of age or emancipated, you have all the health care rights of an adult and may receive or refuse any type of treatment you desire without anyone's consent. A person under 18 years of age can, under certain circumstances, become emancipated and have all the rights and responsibilities of an adult. See publication *Emancipation of Minors* which contains the forms and instructions needed to get an emancipation.
- In circumstances other than the ones listed above, the right of people under eighteen years of age to receive health care treatment without the consent of a parent or guardian is unclear. State laws seem to say that those under the age of eighteen need their parent's or a guardian's permission to re-

ceive health care treatment.

- If you need medical treatment without your parent's consent, and it is not clear from the above that you have a right to have that treatment without your parent's consent, you should talk to a health care provider. Ask the provider if your conversation is "privileged." A privileged conversation is one that will not be revealed to any other person without your permission. If they answer "yes," explain to the provider why it is important that you get the medical treatment you need without your parent's or a guardian's permission. Then ask if the provider is willing to treat you under those circumstances and conditions.

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EPQ, AP 96362-1600**

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