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TO THE PARENTS OF OUR PATIENTS 17 YEARS AND OLDER

Dear Parent,

Soon your adolescent will turn 18 years old and become an adult under the law. He or she will have some new rights and responsibilities regarding health care. During the teen years, you and your child's health care provider worked together to help your son or daughter learn to become responsible for his or her health.

At age 18, your youth will have the right to make health decisions and decide whether to share health information and records with you or others. Holyoke Pediatric Associates' policies follow generally accepted guidelines and legal requirements.

- Your son or daughter will meet with the provider privately. You will not be asked to come into the exam room unless your son or daughter requests it.
- The provider cannot share the patient's information with you unless the patient requests it.
- Holyoke Pediatric Associates cannot release the medical record or health information to anyone, including you, without the patient's written permission.

However, please note that we cannot control insurance company procedures. If your youth is insured under your policy, the insurer might mail service and billing statements to your address.

Youths who have developmental or cognitive disabilities may need a guardian to assist them as an adult. Please inform us if you are the legal guardian of your young adult child so that we may adjust our policies to conform to the terms of your guardianship.

Holyoke Pediatric Associates has many young adult patients. Your son or daughter may continue in care here until 22 years of age. We will work with the patient to plan for a transition to adult care by the age of 22 years. We value our partnership with you and your young adult as he or she makes the important transition to adulthood.

You may find Holyoke Pediatric Associates' policies for our young adult patients at our website www.holyokepediatrics.com or please ask us for a copy. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to ask the provider or our practice administrator.

Congratulations on your son's or daughter's journey into adulthood!

Sincerely,
Holyoke Pediatric Associates