















SYSTEM DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PEDIATRIC AND ADULT HEALTH CARE

System Characteristics		Pediatric	Adult
	Orientation to Care	Growth and development	Maintenance of well-being with aging
	Practice Approach	Family-centered; shared decision-making with parents	Patient-centered; shared decision-making with young adult
	Primary Care Practice Patient Population	Majority of patients do not have chronic conditions	Majority of patients have chronic conditions
	Specialty Clinic Affiliation/ Location	Most pediatric specialty clinics located in children's hospitals	Most adult specialty practices located in private office-based settings
	Multidisciplinary Staffing	Most pediatric specialty clinics are co-located with other specialists and can offer ancillary therapies	Few adult specialty clinics are not co-located with other specialists and need to refer to other specialists and ancillary therapists
	Availability of Care Coordination	Most pediatric subspecialty clinics and many pediatric primary care practices have care coordination services. Several public care coordination programs (e.g., State Title V program) are available for youth with specific chronic conditions.	Few adult specialty clinics and even fewer adult primary care practices have the availability of care coordination services. Few public care coordination programs are available for adults with chronic conditions.
	Length of Appointment	Longer time	Shorter time

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System Characteristics		Pediatric	Adult
	Time Alone	Sometimes for part of the visit	Legally required for confidentiality over age 18, unless young adult gives permission for others to be present
	Patient Role as Self Advocate	Less, given parental support/presence during visit	Essential
	Patient Role in Making Appointments and Medication Refills	Parent handles	Patient handles
	Adherence to Care	Offer more reminders and work arounds (e.g., using shots or intravenous medications); provider has the legal option of contacting protective services if needed	The expectation of adherence; up to the patient to follow treatment/medication recommendations; the provider has no legal options
	Medication Dosage	Depends on weight	Commonly one adult dose, but occasionally related to weight
	Use of Pain Medications	More liberal availability	More restrictive availability
	Years in Care System	Usually about 20-25 years	Average 50+ years