



## Henry Ford Pediatrics ***Approach to Healthcare Transition***

Henry Ford Pediatrics is committed to helping our patients make a smooth change from pediatric to adult health care. We will begin this process by ages 12 to 14. We will work with patients 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 many youths make all their own decisions. This means that we may spend time during the visit with the teen without the parent present. During this time, we help the teen set health priorities and support them in becoming more independent with their own health care.

At age 18, young people 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 permission will we be able to talk about any personal health information with family members. If the young patient has a condition that keeps him/her from making health care decisions, we encourage parents/caregivers to consider options that will allow the parent/caregiver to continue to provide support and guidance even after the young patient turns 18 years old.

We will work with young patients and families regarding the best age for transferring to an adult provider. We usually recommend that this transfer occur by the 21st birthday. We will help with this transfer process by:

- Helping patients build the skills they will need in adult care
- Helping to identify an adult provider
- Sending medical records to new providers
- Summarizing and reviewing the medical history with patient input
- Communicating with adult providers about the unique needs of our patients.

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