

Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs

## Transition Policy Statement

8/6/18

The Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs (OCSHCN) is committed to helping our patients make a smooth transition from pediatric to adult health care. This process involves working with youth, beginning at ages 12 to 14, 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 patients take full responsibility for decision-making. This means that we will spend time during the clinic visit talking more with the teen to assist him/her in setting health priorities and supporting her/him in becoming more independent with his/her own health care. The OCSHCN uses a transition checklist that has age appropriate developmental milestone questions as a guide when speaking with teens about appropriate health care transition topics.

At age 18, a youth legally becomes an adult. 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 consent will we be able to discuss any personal health information with family members. If the youth has a condition that prevents him/her from making health care decisions, we encourage parents/caregivers to consider options for decision making.

At age 17 we will begin collaborating with youth and families to prepare the youth to transfer to an adult provider. We recommend this transfer occurs at age 18 or at least before the youth is discharged at age 21. We will assist with this transfer process, including helping to identify an adult provider, sending medical records, portable medical summary and communicating with the adult provider about the unique needs of our patients.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your local OCSHCN Care Coordinator.



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