



TEEN CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

Dear Parents of Tweens & Teens,

As Physicians and Practitioners for adolescents and young adults, we want to recognize and support our teenage patients' evolving maturity and independence. Adolescence is a time of transition toward adulthood, and we believe that we should support this healthy transition in our office. Toward this goal, we want our teens and parents to be aware of TCFAP'S policy on adolescent and young adult health visits.

During our adolescent well visits (ages 13 and older), we will spend some time each visit alone with your teen. We see this as an opportunity for them to become more comfortable speaking alone with their doctor, something that they will need to do independently once they become adults. We also want to give all teens an opportunity to address any and all of their healthcare concerns in a private and confidential manner, should they need or want to.

When teens share something with us that they ask to remain confidential, we will honor that request. If we feel there could be harm or medical concern, we will of course discuss this with you. Although we always encourage adolescents to be open and honest with their parents, we also want them to have a "safe" place to go with any health concerns, and sometimes our practice can be that safe place. We hope that parents will trust us to care for our teenagers and young adults in these situations.

We are also happy to speak privately with parents and caregivers before and after the visit, at their request, about any concerns that they may want to share about their teen. We will maintain the teen's confidentiality during these discussions. We will also share any concerns or health issues about your teen after our visit if necessary.

This policy is consistent with recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Society for Adolescent Medicine surrounding adolescent confidentiality in healthcare. Your older teen may also choose to schedule visits alone. The same policy applies; if we are concerned with harm to themselves or others or if there is a medical concern, we will communicate that with you.

We consider it a privilege in partnering with you to take care of your teenagers, as they grow into healthy, independent young adults. We have put together some helpful information for you and your teen. We encourage you and your teen to visit our website, www.tcfap.com and click on the "Teen/Adolescent" icon.

If you have any questions, please feel free to discuss it with us at anytime.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marconi, Dr. Dobos, and Dr. Moore