



Dear Hirsch Pediatrics Patient,

Congratulations on reaching the milestone of turning 18! We have enjoyed the privilege of being part of your life through the years. We are sending you this letter to answer the most common questions on how we will interact with you and provide healthcare going forward.

Now that I am 18 can I still come to a pediatric office?

- Yes! We are happy to provide care for you through age 21.

Is my health information private from my parents?

- **Absolutely.** According to state and federal law when you turn age 18 you are considered an adult, and we are not legally allowed to disclose any medical information to your parents without your written or verbal consent. **When you turned 18 we changed your Patient Portal access to your e-mail address instead of your parent's.**
- Your parents can still schedule your appointments but we are not allowed to communicate any information about your appointments to your parents without your consent.

If I still prefer to switch to an adult doctor, can I do that now?

- Yes if you would like to transition your care now, most internal medicine and family practice offices will accept patients starting at age 18.
- Your health insurance website has a list of providers that are close to you and in-network, or we can provide a list of local practices.
- If you choose to switch medical practices now, it is important to request from our office a full copy of your medical records by signing and sending back to us the records request form from our website. We will mail to you without charge a copy of your medical records on a flash drive.

As always please feel free to reach out with any questions that may arise. For quickest response please e-mail us directly through your Patient Portal.

Sincerely,
Steven F. Hirsch, MD, FAAP