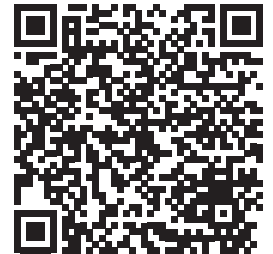


A patient under the age 18 is a minor and must have the consent of a parent or a legal guardian before health care services are provided, apart from a few exceptions.

These exceptions are explained below, and the opposite page offers answers to frequently asked questions.

If the patient will not be accompanied by their legal guardian, please be sure the legal guardian has provided signed consent for the person who is accompanying them or for them to come alone. Written consent must be provided on the WinnMed form titled: Consent for Treatment of a Minor & Unaccompanied Minor.

This form is also available to fill out and submit online by scanning the QR code or visiting: <https://winmed.org/patients-and-visitors/forms>



PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT EXCEPTIONS:

A parent or legal guardian must provide consent on behalf of a minor (under age 18) before health care services are provided, with several important exceptions.

- Emergency care, if a parent or guardian is not readily available.
- Care for emancipated minors
 - > Minors can be emancipated by: court order, marriage, or present incarceration as an adult.
- Specific health care services related to:
 - > Reproductive health
 - > Substance use treatment

HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS MUST OVERRIDE THE MINOR'S CONFIDENTIALITY AND REPORT IF:

- The minor is a serious threat to themselves or someone else
- There is suspicion of physical abuse or neglect by an adult
- The minor is under age 12 and has been involved in any sexual activity
- The minor has been involved in sexual activity with someone living in their home

ACCESS TO MEDICAL RECORDS

- Parents/guardians can access minors' records, but the provider may use discretion to prohibit parent/guardian access if it is not in the minor's best interest
- Information related to substance abuse and its treatment may not be disclosed to parents/guardians without the minor's express permission
- Providers cannot disclose information about Title X services to a parent/guardian without written authorization of the minor

Patients under 18 have the right to the following WITHOUT parental/guardian consent or knowledge:

- Family planning services, including contraceptive services
- Prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including vaccines for hepatitis B and HPV
- Testing and treatment of STIs, including HIV
- Substance abuse treatment
- Age 12 and up: tobacco cessation counseling
- NOTE: Quitline IOWA requires age 13 and up to consent for counseling services



Frequently Asked Questions

Can a 13 to 17-year-old child come to an appointment regarding birth control or STD testing without a parent's consent?

Yes, the child can sign their own consent for these services. See the Consent for Treatment of a Minor & Unaccompanied Minor form for a complete list of exceptions for consent.

Can a child under the age of 17 be seen for an athletic physical, wellness check-up, acute appointment, or office visit without a parent's written consent?

No. To comply with Iowa Law, a parent or guardian must be present or the Consent for Treatment of a Minor & Unaccompanied Minor form must be completed before the child can be seen.

Can a child under the age of 17 attend an appointment for an athletic physical, wellness check-up, acute appointment or office visit with a caretaker other than the legal guardian without the parent's consent? (This could include grandparents, daycare provider, older sibling, neighbor, foster parent, etc.)

No, unless a parent or legal guardian has designated this individual on the Consent for Treatment of a Minor & Unaccompanied Minor form prior to the appointment. Foster parents should have legal documentation for medical care and consent.

Can a child under the age of 17 be seen for a physical therapy appointment without a parent's written consent?

To comply with Iowa Law, a parent or guardian must be present or the Consent for Treatment of a Minor & Unaccompanied Minor form must be completed before the child can be seen for the INITIAL appointment. Once parental consent has been received for treatment, the child may attend future appointments without a guardian.

Does this minor consent allow a procedure or vaccine to be given without consulting the legal parent?

Consent for a procedure, injection, or any additional treatment will require additional consent from the parent and will be documented as such. Immunizations/vaccines will not be administered unless a parent/legal guardian, or the adult listed on the consent for that specific section, is present.

Where can I find the Consent for Treatment of a Minor & Unaccompanied Minor form?

The Consent for Treatment of a Minor & Unaccompanied Minor form is available on our website at <https://winmed.org/patients-and-visitors/forms>. The form can also be emailed or faxed to any individual requesting it. To return the completed form electronically, email it to patientinfo@winmedical.org. Physical copies of the form can be picked up at WinnMed.