



West Cambridge Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine

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The Teenage Medical Record

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As part of our commitment to supporting your child's health and promoting their independence, we want to inform you that Massachusetts law requires patients aged 13 and older to create their own MyChart accounts to complete necessary health forms and access their medical information securely. This transition encourages teens to take an active role in managing their health while maintaining appropriate privacy. Please note, this requirement is part of Massachusetts law aimed at promoting adolescent health engagement and privacy. Below we provide a definition of the proxy access parents and guardians have for their teenagers along with a few other definitions around confidentiality and access to the medical record during this transition. We will assist your child in setting up their account and discuss how they can use it to best serve them. Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions or need further assistance during this process.

Sincerely,

West Cambridge Pediatrics

Limited Proxy Access for Parents/Guardians:

When a child turns 13, parents or guardians typically transition to limited proxy access in MyChart. This means they can still schedule appointments, send messages about medical advice and customer service, view and update insurance details, and see some information like allergies, immunizations, test results, medical history, and letters.

Confidentiality for Teens:

Massachusetts law recognizes the need for adolescents to have confidential access to their healthcare information. This means teens can have their own MyChart accounts and communicate with their providers without necessarily needing parental/guardian consent for certain services.

Teen's Private Account:

At age 13, teens are encouraged to create their own MyChart accounts, which will allow them to directly message their providers and access their records.

Access to Sensitive Information:

Some sensitive information, like specific diagnoses or details related to sexual health, may be withheld from parents/guardians, even if they have proxy access, to protect the teen's privacy, according to some medical providers.

Parental/Guardian Access to Other Information:

While access to certain MyChart information is limited, parents/guardians can still obtain information about their child's health by contacting the healthcare provider directly or through other means, as they would for any patient.

Automatic End of Proxy Access:

Proxy access from parents/guardians will automatically end when the child turns 18, unless the child explicitly grants access again.