Adolescent Well Check Expectations

As children reach adolescence they require a different approach to health care. We serve the changing health care needs of adolescents with the following well check guidelines:

- Your adolescent completes a developmental/behavioral screening tool before seeing the physician. This form screens for learning, emotional, and behavioral problems so we can recommend interventions as early as possible.
- A member of the nursing staff brings your adolescent to the exam room for measurements and other information. You are welcome to accompany your child during this portion of the visit.
- With a physician present, you and your child will have a chance to discuss overall health and any other concerns.
- After this, we will recommend that you return to the waiting room to give your adolescent 1:1 time with the physician, in order to respect privacy, build trust, and encourage honest communication.
- You may return to the exam room for the end of the visit, if needed.

What the doctor discusses alone with your adolescent remains private unless he/she wishes to share the conversation with you, or the doctor feels the health of your adolescent or someone else is in danger. Your adolescent is made aware what concerns are discussed together. We always encourage both adolescents and their caregivers to call our office with any questions.

We will continue to discuss your adolescent's health, ensure your understanding of our plans, and encourage your support and participation.

We are happy to provide a medical home for your adolescent through college and assist with the transitioning to an adult health care provider.

Special Provisions for Minors Under Washington Law

Under Washington law, minors, with or without the consent of a parent or guardian, may consent to services for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of certain illnesses including: sexually transmitted diseases and other diseases that must be reported to the State; pregnancy; abuse of drugs or alcohol; and emotional disturbance.