

OU Children's Physicians Pediatrics Genetics Clinic

Transition of Care Policy for Youth and Young Adults

OU Pediatric Genetics models its transition policy upon the guidelines provided by the National Health Care Transition Center. We believe that a smooth transition from adolescence to young adulthood includes the clear shift from a pediatric to an adult health care model. This transition process requires joint planning from the provider, patient, and family for the preparation and implementation of transition beginning at age 14. At age 18, most youth in our practice will transition to an adult model of care with modifications as needed for those with intellectual disabilities. Incorporation of transition services within the genetics specialty aims to ensure continuation of medical care into adulthood, an especially vulnerable period for chronically ill or medically complex patients. We honor the preferences of the youth and family regarding the eventual transfer of care to an adult primary medical home, but we generally expect this to occur at sometime between 18 and 21 years of age.

Our approach to the care of young adults age 18 and older meets HIPPA and state policy and consent requirements making the young adult the sole decision-maker about care and about the sharing of personal health information. Exceptions to this approach require legal authority through the signed consent of the young adult, legally valid custodial care or power of attorney documentation, or an adjudicated guardianship arrangement.