

Churchside Medical Practice

Confidentiality Policy for Patients under 16 years of age

Policy

- The Practice recognises that the principles of confidentiality apply equally to all patients, irrespective of age.
- The Practice will ensure that its staff recognise that all patients under 16 are entitled to the same level of confidentiality as all other patients, including being respectful of any request to withhold information from their parents or guardians and take all necessary steps to ensure that this right of confidentiality is not inadvertently breached.
- Where a young person requests a consultation at the Practice premises, they will be booked in to see a clinician in the normal way.
- In the event that a young person attends the surgery without a pre-booked consultation and without adult support, the normal procedure for providing them with a consultation appointment will take place.
- Should the young person independently request medical advice or treatment (including contraceptive advice, abortion, other treatments and surgical procedures), the Practice clinician involved in the consultation with the young person will determine their competency and capability to understand the choices of treatment available and the consequences of such treatment.
- It is up to the clinician to deem if each individual patient under the age of 16 is Fraser Competent formerly Gillick Competency (have full capacity and understanding regarding their treatment and can give consent to, even though their parents are not in agreement). When such competency and capability is deemed to exist, the clinician will provide appropriate medical advice or initiate suitable treatment.
- As from 1st April 2015 a search is carried out on the clinical system at the beginning of each calendar month to identify all patients who reach the age of 16 during the previous calendar month. They are notified that their records may have previously been shared through the Enhanced Sharing Module and a Summary Care Record exists for them and given the opportunity to 'Opt Out' if they wish to do so.

Dated: July 2021

Review Date: July 2024
