



Date:

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We have identified that your child(ren) will be turning 18 years old in the near future. With his/her next birthday, you will encounter many changes, one of those being in regards to seeking healthcare. In order to help you navigate these changes, we wanted to provide you with some useful information for what to expect when your adult child comes to our office.

Upon turning 18, your child will be considered an adult and will be responsible for his/her own healthcare. Up to this point we have been able to talk with you about your child's health, but once he/she turns 18 we will not be able to discuss anything with you without your child's consent. This will apply even if your son or daughter is away at college. He/she will need to call our office directly regarding the issue unless they have given written consent for us to speak with you. Additionally, if you need access to your child's records, your son or daughter must consent in writing to grant us permission to provide you access. Because of this, we will ask your child to complete a new registration form and Authorization form. Your child does not have to complete the consent form, but if it is not filled out, we will only be able to talk with your child about his/her care.

As an adult, your child will be the only one who can request his or her medical records. He/she can call our office to request a medical release form. Your child may request the information/medical records be sent to you, but must provide this request in writing by completing the appropriate authorization form.

Poole and Thomas Pediatrics will continue to provide care for your child through their 22<sup>nd</sup> year of life. He/she child will remain on your family's account with any younger siblings. If you are the policy holder for his/her insurance, a copy of your young adult's billing statement will continue to be sent to you. If you are not the policy holder on insurance, your child will be separated onto his/her own account and billing statements for him/her will be sent to the young adult at the address provided by him/her. Even though the bill may be mailed to your address, it will be addressed to the adult child. Please talk to him/her about the importance of sharing this information with you when it arrives. We will still be able to bill your insurance as long as your child is eligible.

These changes are not being imposed by us as a practice but are mandated by Federal Law once your child turns 18 and becomes a legal adult. We understand this can be a difficult and frustrating transition for you as a parent. We recommend you talk to your child about what it means to be responsible for his or her healthcare.

Please feel free to discuss these changes with our office as we are here to offer assistance in any way we can.

Sincerely,

The Providers of Poole and Thomas Pediatrics