

Pediatric and Adult Care Differences



What is the Difference between Pediatric Care and Adult Care?

Pediatric Healthcare: Your parents or legal guardians are usually the primary contact for most of your medical needs. Your parents or guardians play an important role in helping you manage your care so you can stay healthy. Children's Hospital Los Angeles is considered Pediatric Healthcare because it takes care of children's medical needs up until young adulthood.

Adult Healthcare: You as the young adult are legally responsible for managing your medical care. There will come a time when you will graduate from Children's Hospital and move into Adult Healthcare.

Transfer of Care is when you switch from pediatric to adult healthcare which typically happens at age 18 and/or 21. It is important to know about the differences so that you can begin to prepare.

Who is Responsible?

	<u>Pediatric Care</u>	<u>Adult Care</u>
Going to medical visits	Your parents, caregivers, or legal guardians go with you.	The patient, you! You can invite others to come with you.
Completing clinic forms	Your parents, caregivers, or legal guardians	The patient, you! This means you read the information and YOU sign all forms—not your caregivers.
Answering doctor's questions about your condition, medications, family history	Your parents, caregivers, or legal guardians	The patient, you! Your doctor/nurse are there to support you, it is ok to ask questions if something does not make sense to you.
Making decisions about your treatment	Your parents, caregivers, or legal guardians	The patient, you! You decide whether you want a type of treatment that is being offered.
Consenting (giving permission) to have medical procedures	Your parents, caregivers, or legal guardians	The patient, you! You decide if you would want a medical procedure or not.
Receiving your medical records	Your parents, caregivers, or legal guardians have access to most of your medical records.	The patient, you! No one can receive your medical information without your permission.

Keeping records of medical history and immunizations	Your parents, caregivers, or legal guardians	The patient, you! You should start keeping your medical records in a spot that is easy to access.
Reaching out to providers for questions/concerns about treatment plan, medications, and getting your prescriptions	Both you and your parents, caregivers, or legal guardians	The patient, you! Remember, your doctor/nurse are there to help you! It is ok to ask questions; your doctors want to make sure you are getting the care you need!
Scheduling, rescheduling, or canceling your medical appointments	Your parents, caregivers, or legal guardians	The patient, you! You manage your appointments and attend them on time.
Handling insurance information and paying for visit copays	Your parents, caregivers, or legal guardians	<i>If you are on your family's plan</i> , your family can help assist you up to the age of 26. <i>If you are not on a family's plan</i> , then you are responsible for knowing your coverage, paying any copays, and other items.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact:

Center for Healthy Adolescent Transition (CHAT)

(323)361-2464

chatnavigationhub@chla.usc.edu

This document is an adaptation from Got Transition® [Planning To Move From Pediatric To Adult Care? Here's How They Differ](#). Visit GotTransition.org for more information.