

SURGICAL AGE OF TREATMENT POLICY

POLICY

The following policy applies to surgeries done in the Operating Room, Surgical Procedure Rooms, Surgical Treatment Rooms and Surgical Clinics.

- The usual cut-off age for surgery at Providence Health Care (PHC) is 14 years.
- Patients aged 12-14 may receive surgery at PHC if approved, on an individual basis, by an anesthesiologist and according to the exceptions below.
- An anesthesiologist in the Pre-Assessment Clinic (PAC) must assess all patients under the age of 18.

Exceptions

- Age exceptions are made for procedures that can only be done at PHC
- Patients aged 12-14 can be treated only if approved by an anesthesiologist, considering weight, diagnosis and procedure to be done.
- Exceptions may be made with consultation, discussion and approval by anesthesia, nursing and surgery, considering the patient to be done.

Procedure

- Surgeon refers all patients aged < 18 years to the PAC for an anesthesia consult.
- If patient is between the ages of 12-14, the surgeon must state why the surgery must be done at PHC.
- If the patient is between the ages of 12-14, an anesthesiologist must document on the anesthetic record the rationale for allowing or disallowing the surgery.
- All attempts should be made to have the patients seen and assessed by the PAC anesthetist prior to being booked for surgery to allow for changes or cancelation due to the appropriateness for surgery.

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