



# PAWLEYS PEDIATRICS & ADULT MEDICINE

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Dear Parent or Guardian,

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We are writing to tell you about an important topic to discuss with your teenager/young adult. As their parent or guardian, we want to give you the opportunity to have a conversation when and where it is best for your family. According to the HIPAA privacy laws, 16 year olds are considered adults and have the right to keep their protected information private. If a 16 year old child has an appointment, un-accompanied by a parent or guardian, they will be asked to update their HIPAA authorization form.

In 2018, we are proactively providing information to parents/guardians and now that «FirstName» is 18 or older, he/she will need to complete a HIPAA Compound Authorization form. We encourage you to have a discussion with him/her about who should have access to his/her medical and financial information prior to the next visit to Pawleys Pediatrics and Adult Medicine.

Privacy rights are meant to protect the patient, which means the patient decides who has access to his or her medical information and with whom he or she wishes to share such information.

Protected information includes many things, like:

- Social security number
- Messages or conversations between patient and doctor
- Diagnosis
- Medication
- Information about health insurance or medical bills
- Other pieces of information about the patient

The enclosed pamphlet may assist the young adult in making decisions about who has access to protected information.

When it comes to financial information, a medical claim, explanation of benefits from the insurance company or a financial statement you might receive in the mail, the parent/guardian would need to be listed on the HIPAA authorization form in order to discuss financial information.

The teenager or young adult patient may feel that the information discussed with their doctor should be kept private between them and their physician. As medical providers and staff who have teenagers/young adults of our own, we know this can be an overwhelming topic and not one to discuss at the front desk with a Receptionist.

Our support staff members can answer your questions about privacy or this notification. You can call 843-314-1314 ext. 233 to speak with Julie or Lynne. They not only have children and are happy to help you answer some questions; they are familiar with HIPAA privacy laws.

Sincerely,  
Doctors and Staff