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**General Operating Policy: Newberg School-Based Health Center
Parent and/or Guardian Involvement**

Purpose

To establish an efficient, ethical, and legal method to define the need for parent and/or guardian involvement in care provided at the Newberg School-Based Health Center. The Newberg SBHC will encourage parent and/or guardian participation and awareness in circumstances where they are not needed for consent, but the patient is comfortable with their knowledge of the visit. Additionally, parents will be informed of general SBHC practices and operations through website content, surveys, and school outreach.

Policy

All students enrolled in the Newberg School District are entitled to receive care at the SBHC. Students who choose to take advantage of the SBHC services are required to have parental/guardian consent prior to receiving services, with exceptions according to ORS 109.610, ORS 109.640, and ORS 109.675. However, the provider will follow best practice to involve parents unless contraindicated to do so, as referenced in ORS 109.650. In specific circumstances where the minor patient chooses not to involve their parent or guardian, SBHC staff will encourage the involvement of another designated safe adult in the child's care.

Definitions

A. Ages of Consent

1. Married, under age 18.
2. 15 years of age or older. Oregon law, ORS 109.640 allows a minor 15 years of age or older to consent to hospital care, medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment by a provider without the consent of an adult or guardian. (See table below)

3. Disclosures to Parent or Guardian: A physician, nurse, or hospital is permitted, but not required, to notify the minor's parent or guardian of any diagnosis or treatment, or need for treatment or services, without the consent of the minor. For testing or treatment of HIV or venereal diseases, providers should not disclose protected health information to parent(s) or guardian without the minor's authorization.

Ages of Consent

(ORS 109.610 – 109.695, 433.001 – 433.085, 418.307)

B. TREATMENT	CONSENT AGE	STATUTE
Hospital Care, Medical or Surgical Diagnosis or Treatment by a Physician or Dentist ORS 109.640	15	ORS 109.650
Outpatient Diagnosis/Treatment for Mental/Emotional Disorder or Chemical Dependency (excluding Methadone Treatment) ORS 109.675	14	ORS 109.675
		ORS 109.680
Birth Control Information and Services ORS 109.640	Any age	ORS 109.650
Venereal Disease (Hospital, Medical or Surgical Care, related to Diagnosis or Treatment) ORS 109.610	Any age	ORS 109.610
HIV Testing ORS 433.045(4a)	Any age	ORS 433.045(3)

Procedure

1. Consents will be obtained at any initial office visit and kept electronically in accordance with the Patient Confidentiality Policy. If the patient or parent/guardian (when applicable) refuses to give consent, services will not be provided, except in case of emergency or in cases of exceptions specified by law.
2. Specific to the SBHC:
 - a. SBHC staff may participate in the school registration process as possible to facilitate parental knowledge of clinic services and to collect written consents. Consents may be obtained and kept at the health center in accordance with HIPAA rules prior to office visits if parents wish to have consent ahead of time.
 - b. When students without consent seek SBHC services, the staff shall evaluate whether parental consent is required. If parental consent is required and not already on file, the SBHC staff will contact the parent/guardian to obtain verbal consent, documenting it in the chart. They will provide the requested service and send the written consent form with the student to be signed and returned or fax a consent to parent if possible. If no written consent has been received by the second visit, the SBHC will provide no further services until consent has been received, except in case of emergency.
 - c. If consent is required and the parent cannot be contacted or refuses to give consent over the phone, the SBHC staff will give the student a consent form to be returned to the SBHC before any service is delivered. The student will not receive service until consent is obtained, except in case of emergency. The school may arrange care for the student in accordance with school policy.
 - d. The SBHC has an opt-in policy to allow parents or guardians to consent or evaluation and treatment.
 - i. If an opt-in form is not on file, and the minor may legally consent for themselves, SBHC providers will follow Oregon minor consent laws (ORS 109.610 – 109.695, 433.001 – 433.085, 418.307).
 - ii. If a student wishes to be seen and may not legally consent for themselves, a parent or guardian will be contacted to verbally confirm opt-in status. If a parent/guardian denies permission for the student to be seen, the refusal will be documented, and the student will not be seen for any reason unless deemed an emergency by medical staff.

- e. According to ORS 109.675, for minors 14 years of age and older seeking treatment for mental health or chemical dependency without parental consent, the provider will involve parents of the minor before the end of treatment unless the parent refuses or unless there are clear indications to the contrary, which will be documented in the treatment record.
- f. Parent/guardian involvement will be encouraged with all minor patients. If patient declines involvement and there are no specific concerns, the clinic staff will continue to encourage parent/guardian involvement. If patient declines involvement and it is the provider's best clinical judgment that information needs to be disclosed for the safety of the patient or others, the provider may contact the parent/guardian without the patient's consent. This contact and the rationale for it will be documented in the progress note.

Stakeholders

Providence Oregon Medical Group – Access Strategies

Providence Behavioral Health Services

Newberg Public Schools

Oregon Health Authority, Oregon School Based Health Centers

Yamhill County Public Health

List Cross-References

PH&S Oregon Region, Guardianship Policy Oregon Region (PolicyStat ID: 8992830)