



## SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTER MEDICAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AGE OF CONSENT

Healthy children are our community's future, and as part of our mission we bring our programs directly to where the kids are, school. A School-Based Health Center (SBHC) is a health clinic that provides physical, behavioral health, and preventive services for students in a school setting. All enrolled students are eligible for appointments. The below information is used to inform parent(s)/guardian(s) of minor rights to obtain medical and behavioral health care in the state of Oregon. For more information please visit:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HealthyPeopleFamilies/Youth/Documents/minor-rights.pdf>

**Medical and Dental Services:** *Minors who are 15 years* or older can consent to medical and dental services **without parental consent**, including hospital care, as well as medical, dental, optometric, and surgical diagnostic care.

Examples include:

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| Treatment for illness or injury               | Emergency room visits                                   |
| Sports physicals                              | Vision care (except for first time contact lens visits) |
| Dental visit (check-ups, cleanings, fillings) | Immunizations   |
| X-ray services                                |   |

**Behavioral Health** (Including Mental Health and Chemical Dependency treatment): *Minors who are 14 years* or older can consent to outpatient mental health and drug and alcohol treatment (excluding methadone) **without parental consent**. Examples include:

- Seeking help from a psychiatrist or psychologist
- Seeking mental health therapy from a doctor or social worker
- Seeking help for drug and alcohol use

**Mental health and chemical dependency parental involvement:** Providers are expected to involve parents by the end of the minor's mental health, drug, or alcohol treatment unless:

- The parent refuses involvement
- Clear clinical indications to the contrary exist and are documented in the treatment record
- There is identified sexual abuse
- The minor has been emancipated and/or separated from the parent for at least 90 days
- Involvement does not mean that adults always have access to a minor's mental health or chemical dependency records. Federal regulation 42 CFR 2.14 states that if a minor can self-consent for drug or alcohol treatment, the minor's treatment records cannot be disclosed without the minor's written consent (including to the parent or guardian).

**Social Services** (housing, food, transportation): *Minors 16 years or* older can obtain and be referred to social services supports **without parental consent**.

- If a youth would benefit from services and is under the age of 16, and parent/guardian consent cannot be obtained, staff will refer the youth and family to external community providers and resources.
- Staff will make 3 attempts to contact parents/guardians to obtain consent. All attempts to contact will be recorded in the Electronic Health Record.
- Attempts to connect a youth with social services must be documented in a behavioral health treatment plan or in the electronic health record. In doing so, providers can connect the current support needs for a youth while helping them navigate the process.

**Release of PHI and Confidentiality:** For mental health and chemical dependency services, the provider may disclose health information to a minor's parent or guardian if:

- It is clinically appropriate and, in the minor's best interests
- The minor must be admitted to a detoxification program
- The minor is at risk of committing suicide and requires hospital admission
- Suspicion of abuse or neglect of a vulnerable individual
- Individual is a health and safety risk to themselves or others

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the Senior Director of Quality and Compliance, at [compliance@roguech.org](mailto:compliance@roguech.org) or by calling 541-930-5618.