



### **Important Information for Parents of Adolescent Patients**

As children enter their teen years, part of their well visit includes a few minutes of private conversation with their provider. This helps teens speak openly, take more responsibility for their health, and build trust. You'll be asked to step out briefly, and then you'll return to complete the visit together.

**Chaperones:** If your child prefers a parent or nurse present during the physical exam, we can accommodate that during well visits and sick visits.

**Confidentiality:** Michigan law allows teens to receive confidential care for concerns such as contraception, pregnancy, STIs, and substance use. We must break confidentiality only if a teen is at risk of harming themselves or others, or if someone is harming them.

We also follow American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines by screening teens for depression, substance use, and other risk factors. Routine labs—such as STI, cholesterol, or HIV screening—may appear on insurance statements; these screenings are standard and not necessarily linked to sexual activity. We do not perform drug testing unless a teen is informed beforehand and agrees.

**Your role remains essential.** We rely on parents to provide medical history, share concerns, and consent to recommended vaccines, including HPV. Most of the visit will still involve parent and provider together.

We appreciate your partnership in supporting your teen's health and development.