

Health Care Transition Timeline

for Youth and Young Adults

Age 12-13

- Learn about your health condition, medications, and allergies.
- Ask your doctor questions about your health.
- Ask your doctor if and at what age they no longer care for young adults

Age 14-15

- Find out what you know about your health, health care, and family medical history. Both you and your parent/caregiver can take Got Transition's Transition Readiness Assessments* and discuss this together and with the doctor.
- Carry your own health insurance card.
- Learn more about your health and what to do in case of an emergency.
- Practice making a doctor's appointment and ordering prescription refills (either by phone, online, or through an app).
- Begin to see the doctor alone for part of the doctor's visit to help gain independence in managing your health and health care.

Age 16-17

- Make doctor's appointments, see the doctor alone, ask the doctor any questions you have, and refill medications.
- Ask the doctor to talk with you about your privacy rights when you turn 18.
- Work with your doctor to make a medical summary. Keep a copy for yourself.
- Before you turn 18 and become a legal adult, figure out if you will need help making health care decisions. If so, ask your Family Voices chapter for local resources.
- Talk with your parent/caregiver about the age you want to transfer to a new doctor for adult care.

Age 18-21

- You are a legal adult at age 18 and are legally responsible for your care. Parents/caregivers cannot access your medical information or be in the doctor's visit unless you agree.
- Work with your current doctor to find a new adult doctor, if needed. Make sure that the new doctor accepts your health insurance.
- Update your medical summary with your doctor. Have your doctor send this to your new adult doctor. Keep a copy for yourself.
- Call your new adult doctor to schedule the first appointment. Make sure the new office has your medical information, and learn if there are any charges at the visit.
- Learn if there are additional changes at 18 that affect you (e.g., health insurance, Social Security Income).

Age 22-25

- Continue to get care from your adult doctor, learn to manage your health and health care, and update your medical summary.
- Be sure to stay insured. If you change your health insurance, make sure your doctor takes your insurance, and learn if there are any charges at the visit.

*For a Transition Readiness Assessment for youth, visit <https://gottransition.org/6ce/leaving-readiness-assessment-youth> and for a version for parents/caregivers, visit <https://gottransition.org/6ce/leaving-readiness-assessment-parent>.

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