

A patient under the age of 18 is a minor and must have the consent of a parent or legal guardian before health care services are provided, with a few exceptions.<sup>1</sup>

Minor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ **CONSENT**

**TO TREAT.** As the parent or legal guardian of the above-named minor, I hereby authorize and give consent to BCHC Clinics, staff, and providers to administer diagnostic and/or medical treatment for the above-named minor.

This release form is for the purpose of authorizing continued medical treatment. I hold harmless the health care providers and others who act in good faith upon this authorization.

**OPTIONAL CONSENT.** Written authorization or permission from a parent or legal guardian is required to treat a minor if the parent or legal guardian cannot be present. *In the context of a scheduled appointment, if the authorization is not received, the appointment may be rescheduled until the appropriate permission is obtained.*

As the parent or legal guardian, I authorize and give consent to BCHC Clinics, staff, and providers (**initial** all that apply):

☐ to administer and/or provide all diagnostic and/or medical treatment (including the administration of anesthetics) which the attending physician deems necessary, if the minor is accompanied by:

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name Relationship

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name Relationship

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name Relationship

☐ to administer diagnostic and/or medical treatment to an unaccompanied minor (may come to the clinic on their own if 12 or older), with the exception of immunizations/vaccinations or injections (immunizations/vaccines will not be administered unless a parent/legal guardian, or the adult listed below, is present).

<sup>1</sup> Exceptions to the requirement for parental/legal guardian consent:

- Emergency care, if a parent or legal guardian is not readily available
- Emancipated minors by court order or marriage, or if minor was incarcerated as an adult
- Specific health care services related to reproductive health (including contraceptive services, prevention of sexually transmitted infections, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV), substance or alcohol use treatment, and smoking cessation (only for those age 12 or older)

☐ ] to allow the following to consent for the administration of immunizations/vaccines or injections:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship

If the parent or legal guardian wishes to revoke any aspect of this document, it is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian to notify BCHC in writing of any revocation. The parent or legal guardian understands that any such revocation does not apply to services that were provided prior to the date of revocation.

This authorization shall expire on \_\_\_\_\_.<sup>2</sup>  
(Date)

Parent/Legal Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Cell Work

<sup>2</sup> If no expiration date is indicated, the authorization will not expire until the patient reaches the age of majority or the authorization has been revoked in writing, as explained above.



## **A patient under the age of 18 is a minor and must have the consent of a parent or legal guardian before health care services are provided, apart from a few exceptions.**

**These exceptions are explained below, and the opposite page offers answers to frequently asked questions.**

If the patient will not be accompanied by their legal guardian, please be sure the legal guardian has provided signed consent for the person who is accompanying them or for them to come alone. Written consent must be provided on the BCHC form titled: Consent for Treatment of a Minor & Unaccompanied Minor.

This form is also available by visiting [bchealth.org/minorconsent](https://bchealth.org/minorconsent), or via the Independence, Oelwein, and Jesup page under 'Primary Care' on [bchealth.org](https://bchealth.org).

### **PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN CONSENT EXCEPTIONS:**

A parent or legal guardian must provide consent on behalf of a minor (under age 18) before health care services are provided, with several important exceptions.

- Emergency care, if a parent or legal guardian is not readily available.
- Care for minors considered adults under Iowa law:
  - > Minors who are married, adjudicated emancipated, incarcerated as adults, or serving in the armed forces, as applicable under Iowa law
- Specific health care services related to:
  - > Reproductive health
  - > Substance use treatment
  - > Certain prenatal, intrapartum, and postnatal care when a parent, guardian, or legal custodian is not reasonably available

**Patients under 18 have the right to the following WITHOUT parental/legal guardian consent or knowledge:**

- Family planning services, including contraceptive services
- Prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Testing and treatment of STIs, including HIV
- Substance abuse treatment
- Age 12 and up: tobacco cessation counseling
- NOTE: Quitline IOWA requires age 13 and up to consent for counseling services

### **HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS MUST OVERRIDE THE MINOR'S CONFIDENTIALITY AND REPORT IF:**

- The minor is a serious threat to themselves or someone else
- There is suspicion of physical abuse or neglect by an adult
- The minor is under age 12 and has been involved in any sexual activity
- The minor has been involved in sexual activity with someone living in their home

### **ACCESS TO MEDICAL RECORDS**

- Parents/legal guardians can access minors' records, but the provider may use discretion to prohibit parent/legal guardian access if it is not in the minor's best interest
- Information related to substance abuse and its treatment may not be disclosed to parents/legal guardians without the minor's express permission
- Providers cannot disclose information about Title X services to a parent/legal guardian without written authorization of the minor

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Can a child age 13 to 17 come to an appointment regarding birth control or STI testing without a parent's consent?**

Yes, the child can sign their own consent for these services. See the Consent for Treatment of a Minor & Unaccompanied Minor form for a complete list of exceptions for consent.

## **Can a child under the age of 18 be seen for an athletic physical, wellness check-up, acute appointment, or office visit without a parent's written consent?**

No. To comply with Iowa law, a parent or legal guardian must be present or the Consent for Treatment of a Minor & Unaccompanied Minor form must be completed before the child can be seen.

## **Can a child under the age of 18 attend an appointment for an athletic physical, wellness check-up, acute appointment or office visit with a caretaker other than the legal guardian without the parent's consent? (This could include grandparents, daycare provider, older sibling, neighbor, foster parent, etc.)**

No, unless a parent or legal guardian has designated this individual on the Consent for Treatment of a Minor & Unaccompanied Minor form prior to the appointment. Foster parents should have legal documentation for medical care and consent.

## **Does this minor consent allow a procedure or vaccine to be given without consulting the parent or legal guardian?**

Consent for a procedure, injection, or any additional treatment may require additional consent from the parent or legal guardian and would be documented as such. Immunizations/vaccines will not be administered unless a parent/legal guardian, or the adult listed on the consent for that specific section, is present.

## **Where can I find the Consent for Treatment of a Minor & Unaccompanied Minor form?**

The Consent for Treatment of a Minor & Unaccompanied Minor form is available at [bchealth.org/minorconsent](https://bchealth.org/minorconsent), or via the Independence, Oelwein, and Jesup page under 'Primary Care' on [bchealth.org](https://bchealth.org). The form can also be faxed to our BCHC Clinics. Physical copies of the form are available for pickup at BCHC Clinics.