**Escorting Parents of Adolescents to the Waiting Room**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What is it?** | * Escorting adolescent parents to the waiting room
 |
| **Why is it important for the clinic?** | * So adolescent patients can have time alone with the provider without worrying about their parents listening in from the hall
* To make the parents feel more comfortable while their adolescents are alone in the exam room with the provider
* Gives the provider an opportunity to speak to the parent alone
 |
| **Who does it?** | * The provider escorts the parent
 |
| **When do you do it?** | * After rooming intake and taking the adolescent’s vitals, before the exam starts
 |
| **Where do you do it?** | * Starting in the exam room and walking the parent to the waiting room
 |
| **What are the steps?** | * Start with telling the parent that you will now see the adolescent alone in the room to talk about any health concerns they have
* Then ask the adolescent to stay in the room
* Escort the parent to the waiting room
* After finishing the confidential time with the adolescent, return to the waiting room and ask the parents to come back in to the room for final wrap up and notes
 |
| **Other details:** |  |
| **Exceptions to the rule:** | * There are no exceptions - all adolescents need private time with the provider starting at age 12.
 |

Provider Visit Timeline

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MAreturnspatienttoexamroom | Providerconductspart of visitwith parentand teen patient | Providerescortsparenttowaitingroom | During private time with patient, provider asks confidential questions and orders chlamydia screening (if needed) | Providerbrings parent back in to the exam room | Wrap Up |

**Tips and Best Practices:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Let parents and adolescent know about the health center policy**  | **“Let me tell you how things work in our office for adolescent patients, we are all going to first meet together to review medical history etc. and then I will ask the parent to step out of the room so I can talk to the patient alone.”** |
| **Acknowledge parents’ concerns**  | **Use sympathetic language such as “I understand” or “I hear what you are saying”** **“I know it is a bit of a change when you child goes through adolescents”****“ When your child was young he/she needed you to advocate on their behalf and now during this new stage of development, it is appropriate for her/him to begin to take more responsibility for their own health.”****“Our hope is that parents and children will be able to openly discuss everything , but if there is something your child does not feel comfortable sharing with you, we want them to have another responsible adult who they trust, like a health care provider, who provides accurate and factual information.”** |
| **Providing parents with an opportunity to provide input** | **“Is there anything you’d like me to discuss with your child when we speak alone?”** |