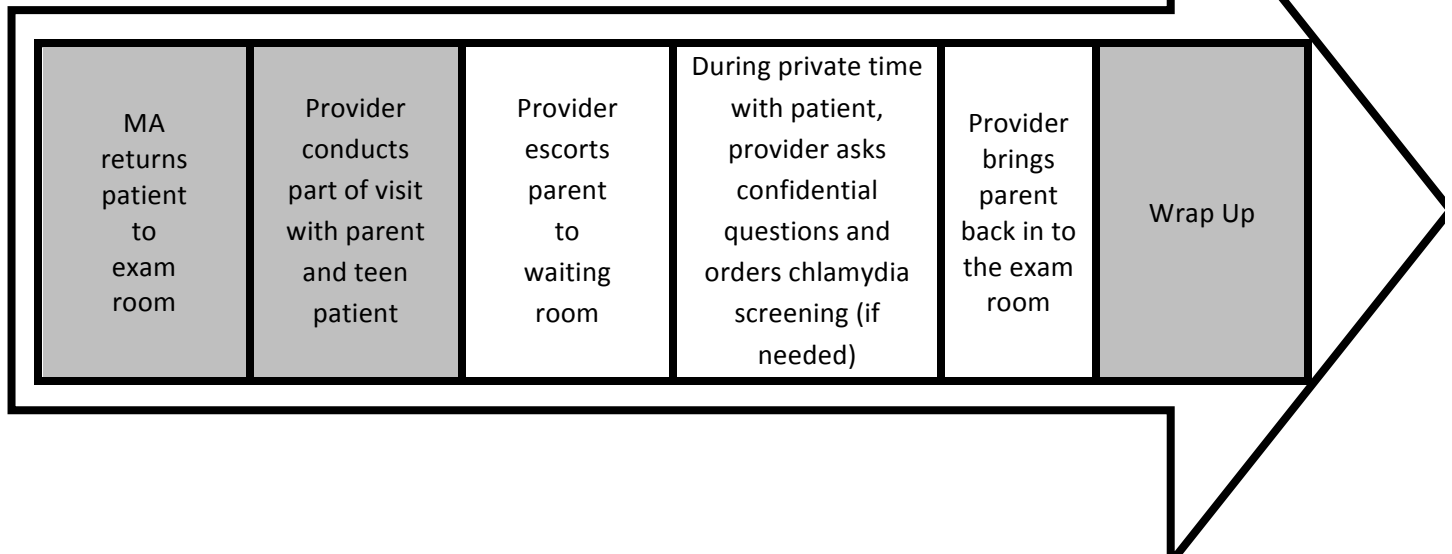


## Escorting Parents of Adolescents to the Waiting Room

<b>What is it?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Escorting adolescent parents to the waiting room</li> </ul>
<b>Why is it important for the clinic?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>So adolescent patients can have time alone with the provider without worrying about their parents listening in from the hall</li> <li>To make the parents feel more comfortable while their adolescents are alone in the exam room with the provider</li> <li>Gives the provider an opportunity to speak to the parent alone</li> </ul>
<b>Who does it?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The provider escorts the parent</li> </ul>
<b>When do you do it?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After rooming intake and taking the adolescent's vitals, before the exam starts</li> </ul>
<b>Where do you do it?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Starting in the exam room and walking the parent to the waiting room</li> </ul>
<b>What are the steps?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start with telling the parent that you will now see the adolescent alone in the room to talk about any health concerns they have</li> <li>Then ask the adolescent to stay in the room</li> <li>Escort the parent to the waiting room</li> <li>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</li> </ul>
<b>Other details:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
<b>Exceptions to the rule:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no exceptions - all adolescents need private time with the provider starting at age 12.</li> </ul>

Provider Visit Timeline



### Tips and Best Practices:

<p>Let parents and adolescent know about the health center policy</p>	<p><b>“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.”</b></p>
<p>Acknowledge parents’ concerns</p>	<p><b>Use sympathetic language such as “I understand” or “I hear what you are saying”</b></p> <p><b>“I know it is a bit of a change when you child goes through adolescents”</b></p> <p><b>“ 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.”</b></p> <p><b>“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.”</b></p>
<p>Providing parents with an opportunity to provide input</p>	<p><b>“Is there anything you’d like me to discuss with your child when we speak alone?”</b></p>