



Evolve Psychiatry

Consent for Psychiatric Services for a Minor (Ages 13 to 17)

THE SHORTAGE OF CHILD PSYCHIATRISTS

Psychiatric services play a vital role in addressing mental health issues in children and adolescents. The prevalence of mental health disorders in children and adolescents has been steadily rising. Various factors contribute to this increase, including societal pressures, academic stress, family dynamics, and the impact of digital media. Geographical disparity further limits the availability of child psychiatrists and poses additional challenges for families seeking specialized care for their children. In situations where a child psychiatrist is unavailable, seeking treatment from a general psychiatrist who has experience in treating children can be a viable alternative.

TREATMENT TEAM EXPERTISE

Evolve Psychiatry aims to bridge the much needed gap in behavior health care needs for children. Our providers assigned to minor patients diligently assess their psychiatric needs and provide appropriate care, follow evidence-based treatment guidelines, and regularly monitor the patient's progress. While not all members of the treatment team have a child and adolescent speciality fellowship, all psychiatric services provided are performed by qualified professionals with comprehensive training that allows them to effectively evaluate, diagnose, and treat most cases within this age group.

Certain cases may require specialized expertise beyond the scope of general psychiatry. In such instances, the team at Evolve Psychiatry will refer the patient to either a child psychiatrist or other specialist with specific expertise in managing complex or unique presentations. These referrals aim to ensure the highest quality of care and the most appropriate treatment options for the patient.

INFORMATION SHARING

When it comes to sharing a child's mental health history with parents or guardians, mental health professionals strive to create a safe and trusting environment and prioritize the best interests of the child. They follow ethical guidelines, legal requirements specific to their jurisdiction, and their professional judgment to make informed decisions regarding information sharing.

For younger children, providers typically share the child's diagnosis, treatment options, and progress updates with parents as they play a crucial role in their child's care. However, certain sensitive information may be withheld if the provider believes it could harm the child or damage the therapeutic relationship. This can include details about the child's thoughts, feelings, or experiences that the provider determines should remain confidential to protect the child's well-being.

As children enter adolescence, their right to privacy and confidentiality in mental health treatment becomes increasingly important. In many jurisdictions, teenagers have the right to consent to their own mental health treatment and to keep their information private from their parents. Providers encourage open communication between the child and their parents, but they also respect the adolescent's right to keep certain aspects of their mental health history confidential so that the patient may feel comfortable discussing their concerns openly.

Circumstances where providers are legally obligated to breach confidentiality and share information with parents or other relevant authorities involve situations where the child's safety is at risk, such as if the child expresses an intent to harm themselves or others, or if there is suspected abuse or neglect.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By signing this notice, I acknowledge the following:

- I have had the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification regarding the treatment team's expertise in my child's psychiatric care.
- I give my informed consent for my child to receive psychiatric services at Evolve Psychiatry.
- I understand and agree to the terms of this agreement and received a copy of the same.