



Can a minor seek health care in Colorado without his or her parents' or guardians' consent?

Yes. In the state of Colorado, the law states that a minor (person 12 years old and older) can consent for some health care without needing permission from their parents or guardians.

The providers at The Pulse will provide services as legally protected for the minor and will also work with the minor with a goal of involving the family, whenever possible.

What health care services can a minor (person 12 years old and older) consent for themselves?

1. Prenatal, Delivery, and Postnatal Care
 - a. A pregnant minor may authorize prenatal, delivery and post-delivery medical care for herself.
2. Contraception
 - a. With the minor's consent, a physician may give birth control procedures, information and supplies to any minor who requests, and is in need, of them.
3. Abortion
 - a. Valley-Wide Health Systems does not provide abortion services. However, for the sake of understanding the full breadth of confidentiality laws, a minor may consent for her own abortion services in the State of Colorado.
4. Services for Victims of Sexual Assault and Other Sexual Offenses
 - a. With a minor's consent, a physician may perform customary examinations to obtain evidence of the sexual offense.
 - b. A physician may also treat the patient for any immediate condition caused by the sexual offence.
5. Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment for Sexually Transmitted Infections
 - a. With a minor's consent, a provider can test and then treat with prescriptions and/or other therapies.
 - b. Additionally, providers may provide prevention education.
6. Drug and Alcohol Abuse Treatment
 - a. With a minor's consent, a provider can assess, prescribe for, and treat the minor for use of drugs or a substance use disorder.
7. Mental Health Services
 - a. A mental health professional may provide psychotherapy services to a minor if the mental health professional determines that the minor is capable of consenting and the services are necessary to the minor's well-being

References

Y2 Connect - <https://y2connect.org/what-is-confidential-care/> (Overview of confidential care)

National Center for Youth Law – www.teenhealthlaw.org (Colorado statutes/regulations)