

PNP Policy Regarding Presence of Parents/Legal Guardian During Office Visits

Having the child's parent or legal guardian present during an office visit enables us to provide the best possible care to the children in our practice. A parent or legal guardian is often the adult who knows the child best and can provide necessary details related to the office visit to help in medical decision making. In addition, except for emancipated minors, children under the age of 18 are not able to provide consent without their parent's or legal guardian's consent as well.

The physicians at Princeton Nassau Pediatrics therefore encourage a parent or legal guardian to be present at each office visit. We understand that there are times that this is not possible and that the child will be brought into our office under the care of an adult who is not the legal guardian. During these times, we ask that a parent or legal guardian be readily available by phone during the scheduled office visit time for the purposes of communicating the necessary history to our physicians and so that our physicians can communicate appropriate instructions and anticipatory guidance to you.

Immunizations require written consent and procedures like bloodwork require informed consent. The best person to provide this consent is the parent or legal guardian.

Immunizations and blood work will NOT be performed if a parent or legal guardian is not present to consent unless there is written consent given in advance specific to the immunization, bloodwork or procedure or there is verbal consent given by a parent of legal guardian to the physician. In order to make this process easier, we have written consent forms available to be downloaded and printed out on our website.

There are a few notable exceptions to these rules. Emancipated minors and adolescents who wish to discuss reproductive, mental health or substance abuse issues are able to seek and receive confidential health care without parental consent. Though it is still preferred to have a parent or legal guardian at these types of visits, it is not mandated by PNP and adolescents are legally entitled to these confidential services in accordance with NJ state law.

Certain types of visits are extremely dependent upon parental history, such as visits to manage ADHD medications. The doctors at Princeton Nassau Pediatrics reserve the right for non-urgent visits to reschedule these visits if they feel as if they will not be able to provide the best care possible to your child without your presence at the visit.

We thank you for understanding this policy and look forward to providing the best possible care for your child.