



by Doug Puder, MD



congratulations on turning 18!

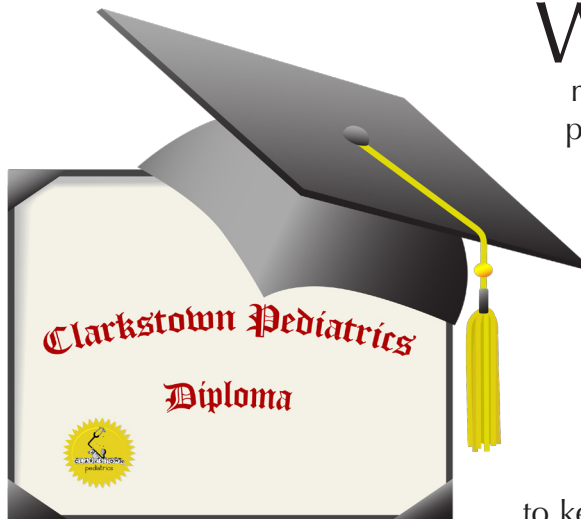
You have some new rights at Clarkstown Pediatrics...

Along with your right to vote, you now have the right to make your own medical decisions. You no longer need a parent's or guardian's consent to be seen in our office. You have the right to decide about treatment, vaccines, or procedures after discussion with your doctor. Most young adults will view their parent or guardian as a trusted "advisor", but it is you who decides. Even if your medical insurance is provided by your parents or guardians, you make the decisions.

Before your 18th birthday we asked your parents or guardians for permission to allow any private discussions with you. We asked if these could remain confidential unless your doctor thought your life was in danger. Now that you are 18, your **right to privacy is the law!** Anything about your medical care or discussions with your doctor are private.

So Congratulations! We hope you will continue as a patient of Clarkstown Pediatrics until you turn 21. We specialize in adolescent medicine in addition to pediatrics and feel we are best trained to provide your healthcare. We look forward to the next three young adult years of your life.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I TURN 21?



When you turn 21, it is time to find an "adult doctor", usually an "internist" who specializes in internal medicine, or a family practice doctor. Some of our patients ask, "are you kicking me out"? We prefer to think of it as a graduation, and we are proud of our role in helping you become a young adult. While there is no Clarkstown Pediatric diploma, we do want to give you some documents to help with a smooth transition from our medical home to another. We can discuss some trusted doctors in our community who are accepting new patients. At our last office visit we will help prepare a summary of your medical conditions, vaccine records and treatment plans for you to keep.

We will ask you to sign a record release (as per federal law), and will forward a full copy of your chart to the doctor of your choice. If there are any complex medical issues, we will be happy to discuss your medical condition with your new doctor. If subspecialists are involved in your care (cardiology, neurology, etc.) we can be helpful with these referrals as well.

It has been a privilege to care for our young adults until their 21st birthday, and we want to help you with your transition to adult care. Be healthy!

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