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## **Parents of 18 Year Olds at Milk and Honey Pediatrics**

We recently provided your child with information regarding turning 18 at *Milk and Honey Pediatrics*. In order to help you through this process, we are providing you with information as well.

Upon turning 18, your child is now considered to be an adult and is responsible for their own healthcare. Because of this, we asked your child to complete a new registration form. Your child has been given a new patient account separate from your family.

What you need to know as a parent:

1. In the past, we were able to talk to you about your child's health. Now that your child is 18, they are considered an adult and, therefore, we will not be able to discuss anything with you without your child's consent. Due to federal laws, we are instead required to talk with your child regarding these issues. We can talk with you if your child gives access to us to discuss and share their Protected Health Information with you. We have given your child the option to grant this access on the new patient information form that they will need to complete. This needs to be received and be on file in order for us to discuss any health issues with you. Please note that your child does not have to complete this consent portion of the form, but if it is not completed we will only be able to talk with your child about their healthcare, even if they are away at college.
2. Due to federal law, as an adult, your child is the only one who can access their medical record. Your child may request that this information be released to you, but again we must have written authorization for this. This means, if they are away at college and need information, they will need to complete a medical release form themselves and fax, email or mail it to us.
3. Your child now has their own patient account. The bills may come to your address but will be under their name. If this causes concern please talk to your child. You may request that the bills come to you at your address, but this must be a mutual request from your child as well.
4. We will still bill your insurance for your child as long as they are eligible and have given you access to both medical and account information. Even though the explanation of benefits comes to you, the bill is still your child's responsibility, and we are not able to discuss billing with you unless the previously discussed consent form has been completed.

These changes are not intended to cause you any difficulty. However, due to federal law, when your child turned 18, they became an adult. All these changes are designed to appropriately treat your child as an adult. Please take the time to speak with your child and discuss this new responsibility with them.