



At North Atlanta Women's Care, we want to recognize and support our teenage patients' evolving maturity and independence. Adolescence is a time of transition toward adulthood, and we believe that we should support this healthy transition in our office. Some teenagers may have health concerns that warrant professional advice and/or treatment, and they may not feel comfortable discussing this with their family and friends.

In surveys, many adolescents say that concerns about confidentiality are a big reason they may avoid seeking medical care. We strive to provide the best care possible for our adolescent patients. To that end, we want our teens and parents to be aware of the following:

- During the appointment, the parent will be asked to leave the room for part of the visit. This time alone with the provider gives the patient a chance to address any concerns or issues that are considered private.
- When teens share something with us that they ask to remain confidential, we will honor that request, unless they plan to harm themselves or someone else. Although we always encourage patients to be open and honest with their parents, we also want them to have a safe place to go with any health concerns, and sometimes we can be that safe place. We hope that parents will trust us to take the best care of our teens in these situations.
- If important medical issues come up during the visit, we will encourage the teenager to discuss them together with her parents.
- We are happy to speak privately with parents during the visit, at their request, about any concerns that they may want to share with us about their teen. We will maintain our patient's confidentiality in these discussions.
- These confidentiality parameters also extend to any telephone calls that we may have with our teen patients about their healthcare, including discussions about appropriate lab/imaging evaluations and results.
- We routinely perform confidential testing on all of our adolescent patients as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the Center for Disease Control. You may see this testing on your insurance. By Georgia law, we cannot discuss these test results with parents.

This policy is consistent with Georgia State Law surrounding adolescent confidentiality, and it is also consistent with the policies of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Society for Adolescent Medicine and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Please let us know if you have any questions.

