

MyChart: Immediate Release

Information for Parents and Guardians

MyChart

Parents of children from birth to age 12 are encouraged to sign up for MyChart to access their child/children's **UR Medicine** medical and healthcare information on a phone, tablet, or computer.

When a child reaches **age 12**, federal regulations mandate that a child can have access to their own medical and healthcare information in their electronic medical record. Further, they require that children 12-17 years of age are the ones to determine what access their parents/guardians may have to this information through MyChart.



This notice and change in processes is about MyChart only, parents/guardians of youth under 18 years of age may continue to request copies of their child's medical records through the Medical Records office without any change in policy or procedure. Prior to releasing records, a mental health professional is asked to review the chart to determine if releasing the information would be harmful to the patient or anyone else. So, although, patients 12-17 years of age may decide on who has MyChart access to their information, parents/guardians can request copies of medical information, as has always been the case.

MyChart Immediate Release

UR Medicine is introducing MyChart: Immediate Release, which will make most medical notes and test results from February 1, 2021 onward available to your adolescent 12-17 years of age in MyChart as soon as they are final.

Why the change?

Earlier this year, the 21st Century Cures Act expanded the rights of patients to electronically access their medical history and treatment information.

Depending on the type of access your adolescent selects for each parent/guardian, you may also have access to some or all of their healthcare information on MyChart.

What this means for you?

Adolescents can give parents/guardians what is called "proxy" access to their healthcare information. This means, they can choose to share access to their information with parents/guardians. Adolescents ages 12-17 will need to decide what type of proxy access, if any, they want their parents/guardians to have.

There are three types of proxy access:

- o Full Proxy Access with Notes
- o Full Proxy Access without Notes
- o Limited Proxy Access – shows only immunizations and allergies

Our recommendation:

We are strongly recommending that adolescents between 12 and 17 years of age give their parents/guardians full proxy access without notes. If this option is selected, it means that parents/guardians will be able to communicate with their teen's healthcare providers through MyChart messages, see diagnostic information, medications, and appointment information, but not be able to see your teen's therapy or psychiatric provider notes. This will enable you as parents/guardians to be active members of your teen's care team but may help your child to feel more comfortable sharing information with their health care provider.

We are encouraging all youth to discuss this decision with their parents/guardians and their healthcare provider to see what is best for them and their family. In some situations, such as adolescents with significant medical concerns, having parents have full proxy access with notes may be very helpful to their care. It is important to know that federal and state regulations indicate that the final decision is determined by your adolescent, the patient.

Adolescents may change the status of their parents/guardians' proxy access at any time. However, we want adolescents to be aware that if parents/guardians are given full proxy access with notes, their parents/guardians will have access to all visits with notes from February 1, 2021 onward. Additionally, if you already have proxy access, the default is that you will be able to see notes unless your child changes the type of proxy access you have in their MyChart account. Their healthcare provider can also make this change at their request.

There are certain circumstances where clinicians may not share information in MyChart for a specific visit with a patient and proxy:

- **Harm Provision:** If the provider decides that releasing the note could lead to harm, defined as the life or physical safety of the patient or another person.
- **Privacy:** As required to comply with state and federal privacy laws.
- **Patient Preference:** If the patient expresses preference to delay sharing a note or withhold sharing a note (particularly not wanting their proxy to see information in the note).

When your adolescent turns 18 years of age, the people they have given MyChart proxy access to will no longer have access. They will need to decide again if they wish to allow their parents/guardians to access their medical information.

We encourage parents/guardians to discuss this important issue with their adolescent and their healthcare providers.

For MyChart assistance, please call the MyChart Customer Service Center at (585) 275-8762 or 1 (888) 661-6162 (choose Option 1) 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

