

# Guidance regarding parental access to medical records of children

- As we are sure you can appreciate, it can be difficult to find the right balance between a young person's right to confidentiality and a parent's right to access their children's notes.
- As such, rigid guidelines cannot be given. However, we follow guidance from:
  - The local 'Islands Safeguarding Children Partnership'. This helps guide us in who has parental responsibility. <http://iscp.gg/article/118098/Parental-Responsibility>
  - The General Medical Council. Guidance from the General Medical Council (GMC) is that from the age of 16, young people are considered to be competent at making their own decisions regarding medical care. <https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-guidance-for-doctors/0-18-years/making-decisions>.
  - The Medical Defence Union. It is also recognised that young people between the age of 12 – 16 often have capacity to make their own decisions, and there may be occasions when it is appropriate to seek consent to share information with parents or guardians. <https://www.themdu.com/guidance-and-advice/guides/confidentiality-and-children>.
- In general:
  - Parents of children under 12 will be given information without need for the child's consent.
  - Between 12-16, evidence that the young person would be happy for information to be shared is preferable, (i.e. documentation in notes that the parent was present at consultation, or verbal consent from the child that they are happy for information to be discussed with their parents). Our PA's are advised to speak to a GP should this evidence not be clear.
  - Age 16+ Information will be kept confidential to the patient, unless there is written confirmation they consent for it to be shared with another person.
- If you require more information regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact the Practice on 724184 or [admin@eqrmp.com](mailto:admin@eqrmp.com).