



Harvard Street
Neighborhood
Health Center INC.

Emergent Care of Unaccompanied Minors Policy

Purpose:

To clarify the rights and responsibilities of Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center (HSNHC) providers to treat patients under the age of 18, presenting to the health center without a parent or guardian for emergent care.

Policy Statement:

HSNHC will adopt and maintain care of unaccompanied mature minors' procedures and will revise these protocols periodically to reflect best practice.

Procedure:

Definitions

Minor: A child under the age of 18 years.

Electronic Health Record (EHR): Software embedded in the EHR system uses the patient's age, gender, and diagnoses to prompt healthcare maintenance reminders. This software is customized to reflect HSNHC guidelines.

Emergency treatment: When it is the clinician's judgement that delay in care would endanger life, limb or the mental wellbeing of the child.

Care Team: Any member of the medical team caring for patient including but not limited to Providers, Nurses, and Medical Assistants.

To HSNHC Nursing Staff and Providers

1. When a minor presents to the clinic in need of emergent care the care team will provide the care needed to stabilize that patient.
 - a. Parent(s) or guardian(s) permission is not required if it is determined that delay in treatment will endanger the life, limb or mental well-being of the patient.
 - b. When appropriate 911 should be notified and the patient should be transferred to a hospital setting.



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2. Once the minor is stabilized the care team will make every effort to contact the parent or guardian of the minor and obtain consent for further treatment of the patient and appropriate documentation will be made in the EHR.

Responsibility: Chief Medical Officer, Providers, Nurses, Medical Assistants, Front Desk Staff, Quality Assurance team.

Scope: Health Center wide

Approved by PCA on: 01/16/2025

Signature of PCA Chair: Tommy Haver MD