

As a **MINOR** in Wisconsin, you have the right to **CONFIDENTIAL** sexual health care.

A **MINOR** is any person under age 18.

When something is **CONFIDENTIAL**, it must be kept private.

When teens understand that their health care providers will keep medical information private, they are more likely to get the quality health care they need and deserve. That's why Wisconsin State Law gives all minors the right to quality, confidential sexual and reproductive health care.

This means that you can talk about sexual health with your health care providers (doctors, nurses, specialists, or other health care workers), and receive many sexual health care services, without your parents, or anyone else, finding out.

It's okay to feel nervous about discussing sexual health with a health care provider. Just remember, they want you to be happy, healthy, and safe!

## How do I pay?

- » You are likely eligible for Wisconsin's Family Planning Only Services, which provides sexual health care for free. You can apply at a local family planning clinic or online at [www.access.wisconsin.gov](http://www.access.wisconsin.gov). Just click on "Apply for Benefits", then "Family Planning Waiver".
- » If you choose to use a parent or guardian's insurance to pay for services, talk with your health care provider about how to keep your care confidential through the insurance billing process.

## What if I still have questions?

- » Ask your health care provider! Remember, they are a valuable and trusted resource.
- » Visit [www.wahccp.org](http://www.wahccp.org)
- » Visit [www.cdc.gov/std/Be-Smart-Be-Well](http://www.cdc.gov/std/Be-Smart-Be-Well)
- » Visit [www.plannedparenthood.org/info-for-teens](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/info-for-teens) and ask questions using the chat feature, or call 1-800-230-PLAN
- » **If you feel unsafe:**
  - Visit [www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org) or call 1-800-656-HOPE
  - Visit [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org) or call 1-800-799-SAFE

*Please Note: This publication is intended as a guide and does not provide clinical information or legal advice. Be aware that laws related to any or all of the subjects addressed in this pamphlet may have been added, repealed, or amended since publication. Please check with legal counsel for site-specific clarification on confidentiality and disclosure issues, including any policies related to the HIPAA privacy rule.*

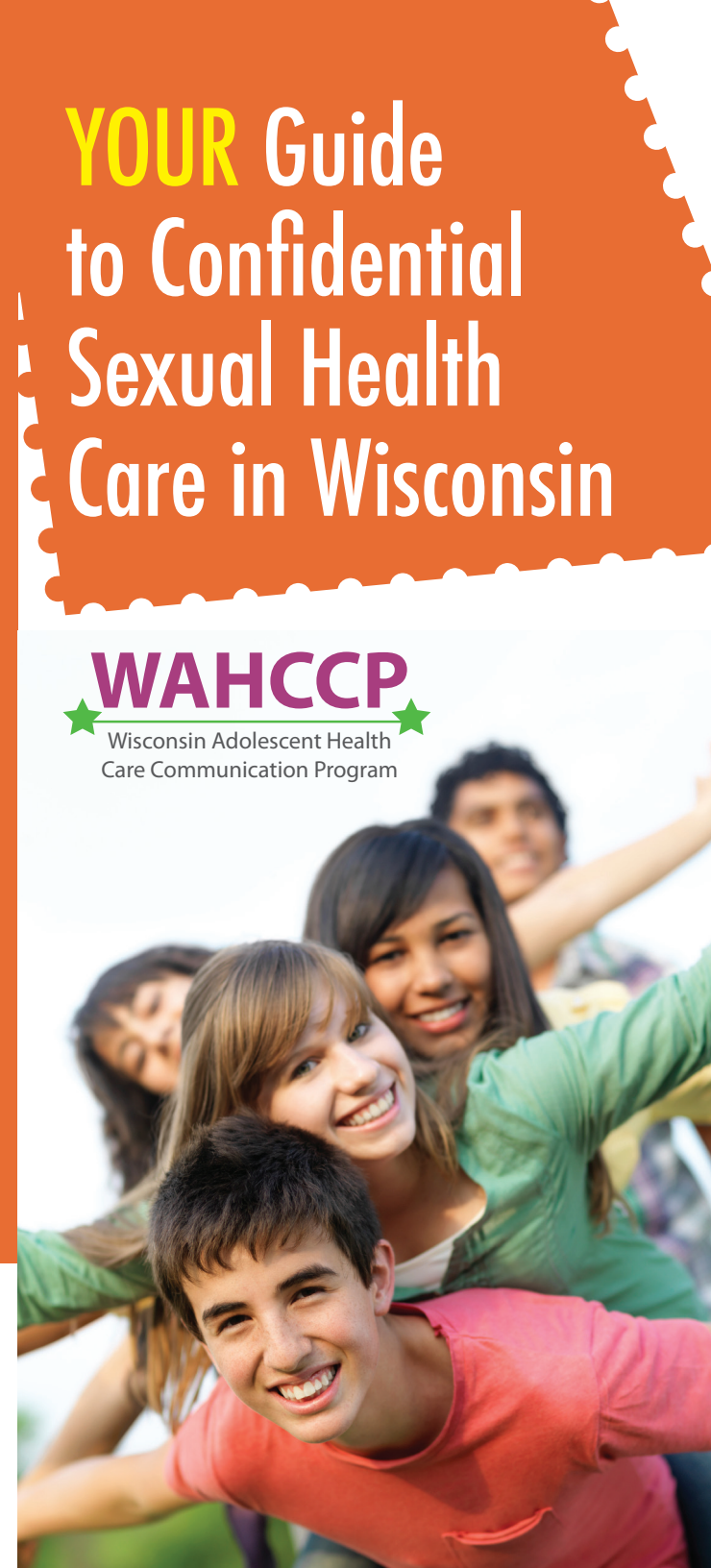
# YOUR Guide to Confidential Sexual Health Care in Wisconsin

**WAHCCP**  
Wisconsin Adolescent Health  
Care Communication Program



Wisconsin Alliance for  
**Women's Health**  
[www.supportwomenshealth.org](http://www.supportwomenshealth.org)

PO Box 1726 Madison WI 53701  
(608) 251-0139 | [info@wiawh.org](mailto:info@wiawh.org)



# I want confidential health care. Where do I start?

It is always best to involve a **parent or guardian** in your sexual health care. But we know that this is not always possible. If you can't talk to your parent or guardian, know that you **CAN** talk to a trusted **health care provider**. Health care providers offer medically accurate sexual health information, services such as pregnancy testing and screening for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), birth control, and counseling.

## Checklist for getting good care:

- Know your rights!** Make sure your provider explains their confidentiality policy. If they don't, ask!
- Get some private time!** If you came with a parent, guardian, or friend, the provider should ask them to leave the exam room for a period of time. If this doesn't happen, try calling the clinic before your visit, or ask a nurse or staff member for help.
- Talk!** Talking about sexual health with a provider may feel awkward at first, but remember that keeping you healthy is their only goal. Be open and honest and make sure all your questions are answered. If you don't feel comfortable with your health care provider, find a new one!
- Create a connection!** Make sure your health care provider knows the best and most confidential way to get in touch with you, whether it be your home phone, cell phone, or even email.

# What sexual health services can I get confidentially?

## Contraception

- » At any age, you can get contraception including condoms, birth control pills, IUDs and much more, confidentially.
- » If you're age 17 or older, you can also get emergency contraception (Plan B, morning-after pill) at any pharmacy, without a prescription. If you're under 17, you must ask your health care provider for a prescription.

## Pregnancy-Related Care

- » At any age, you can get a pregnancy test confidentially.
- » You can also get prenatal and pregnancy-related care, including childbirth services, at any age, confidentially.

## Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Testing and Treatment

- » At any age, you can get confidential testing and treatment for STIs such as syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, genital herpes, or pelvic inflammatory disease.

## HIV Testing and Treatment

- » If you're age 14 or older, you can get *tested* for HIV confidentially.
- » While Wisconsin law does not address the *treatment* of HIV, most health care providers will treat patients age 14 and older confidentially.
- » In some cases, you can get HIV testing and treatment confidentially if you're under 14.

# What about abortions?

## Minors in Wisconsin **CANNOT** get abortions confidentially.

- » You need written consent (permission) from a parent, guardian or adult family member over age 25 to get an abortion in Wisconsin UNLESS...
  - You are "emancipated" (in Wisconsin, you may be emancipated if you have been married, given birth, or been freed from the custody of your parents or guardians in a court of law)
  - Your pregnancy is a result of sexual assault by a parent or caregiver
  - You have a high suicide risk
  - It is a medical emergency
  - You have received permission from the court

# When DON'T I have the right to confidentiality?

## Confidentiality may be broken if:

- » You "**waive confidentiality**", or give your provider permission to share your medical information
- » You are on your parent or guardian's insurance
  - If you use your parent or guardian's insurance, information about your care may show up on an insurance bill, even if the service was confidential.
  - If you're unsure about whether something will show up, ask your health care provider.
  - You may also go to a family planning clinic to get free, confidential health care without insurance.
- » Your provider is concerned about your safety
  - A health care provider is required to report your sexual activity if they suspect or believe that:
    - your sexual contact was not voluntary
    - you are incapable of giving consent due to immaturity or a lack of understanding
    - you are incapable of consent due to mental illness
    - your sexual contact was with a caregiver
    - you were unconscious during sexual contact

