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Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer

**Confidentiality and Young People – Our Obligations**

In Scotland young people from the age of 12 can be considered in law to be competent to agree or disagree to medical treatment, subject to the clinician’s judgement that they fully understand the implications of their decision. We owe a duty of confidentiality to any young person who, if deemed competent, wishes to attend the surgery on their own, view their records, or who expresses a wish to receive or not receive medical treatment. There is a recognised way for clinicians to assess a young person’s competency and this is done on a case by case basis.

As a parent/guardian or person who has responsibility for a young person who is between the ages of 12 and 16 years, or who will shortly turn 12 years old, we would like to share with you this NHS Inform Leaflet that explains the young person’s rights to them.

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/publications/confidentiality-your-rights-factsheet>

There is also a link to this leaflet on our practice website.

Recent changes to Data Protection following the introduction of GDPR mean that from the age of 12 we will be sending any appointment letters direct to your young person. We will also need to ensure that the mobile telephone number we have is that of the young person and this will be used to remind them of appointments etc.

Some young persons may prefer to have their parent/guardians deal with appointments etc and we will honour this if it is their preferred option. However, they may at any time attend the surgery on their own and, if deemed competent by the clinician, we owe them a duty of confidentiality and may not be able to disclose with you the reason they attended.

If you have any concerns about any of the above, or any of the information in the leaflet, please do not hesitate to contact the Practice Manager.