

Your Transition to Adult Neurological Care



Children'sSM
Healthcare of Atlanta

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What does transition to adulthood mean?

A: Transition to adulthood includes both transitioning from pediatric healthcare to adult healthcare and becoming more engaged in daily activities and decisions.

Q: What is involved with transitioning from pediatric to adult healthcare?

A: Transitioning from pediatric to adult healthcare includes finding an adult medical provider, addressing potential health insurance coverage changes, and managing your healthcare needs to the best of your ability.

Q: What is the difference between transition of care vs. transfer of care?

A: The transition process includes ongoing conversations and activities aimed at preparing teens and their parents/caregivers for the move to adulthood and adult healthcare. These conversations involve building health literacy and independence. Transfer of care is the hand-off of care from a pediatric care provider to an adult provider.

Q: What is the difference between a pediatric neurologist and an adult neurologist?

A: Pediatric neurologists specialize in caring for infants, children and teens with neurological conditions while adult neurologists care for adults with neurological conditions. Neurological conditions may present differently in children, so pediatric neurologists receive specialized training to diagnose and care for children with growing and developing brains and nervous systems.

Q: Why do I need to transition to an adult neurologist?

A: As you transition into adulthood, it is important to have a doctor who is trained and experienced in caring for adults and adult-related health issues. Establishing a relationship with an adult provider also helps preserve your continuity of care and allows for continued treatment.

Q: At what age will I have to transition to adult neurological care?

A: While patients are not required to transition before age 21, Children's Neurology recommends current patients—under appropriate circumstances—transition to adult neurological care at age 18. Note, these guidelines are specific to outpatient neurology and do not impact other specialty areas within Children's.

Q: At what age will transition conversations begin?

A: Our goal is to start conversations around age 14 and continue talking about transition until you move to adult care by age 21.

Q: How will I find an adult provider?

A: Visit choa.org/neurologyadultcare to view a list of adult neurologists for your consideration.

Q: How do I know if an adult provider is covered under my insurance?

A: Contact your insurance company by calling the phone number on the back of the card to verify if an adult provider is covered under your insurance plan.

Q: What if I have a rare or unique neurological condition that can only be treated by a certain type of specialist?

A: Our team will review your unique situation and help you identify a list of providers who have the necessary skills and experience to care for you.

Q: What if I haven't identified an adult provider by age 21?

A: Children's is a pediatric healthcare organization that cares for kids and young adults from birth to age 21. Upon turning 21, you must transition to an adult provider.

Q: What if I am near the age cut-off and need a prescription refill?

A: A Children's clinician can write a prescription for up to a 6-month supply (as clinically appropriate) of your medication during your last clinic visit.

