

## PCHP Policy on Divorced or Separated Parents

Whenever families go through a fundamental change such as parental separation or divorce, adjustment can be stressful for everyone and often puts added strain on the challenges of parenting. Our providers are available to provide support and resources to help families successfully navigate this time of transition.

The following statements are meant to clarify our policies and answer questions that may arise:

- Our sole responsibility is to provide excellent medical care for your child. While your provider can counsel you on ways to help your child adjust to changes in daily routines and family structure, we cannot provide legal advice.
- Effective communication between parents is essential to your child's medical care. Breakdown in communication between parents can lead to ineffective decision making or poor follow through of care, thereby jeopardizing your child's health.
- It is helpful and necessary that the adult who accompanies a child to the visit be able to provide as complete and accurate a history as possible.
- Your child's provider will discuss diagnosis and treatment plans with the parent who attends the visit. We cannot routinely disseminate this very important information separately to both parents or guardians. It is up to the parents in attendance to communicate with the each other after the visit so that everyone is on the same page. The clinical summary of the each visit can be shared and is also available through the patient portal. If there is a difference of opinion or inability to communicate effectively, consider both attending the visit.
- It is expected that prescription medications will be passed between parents or caregivers in the bottles or packaging dispensed by the pharmacy and will be given as prescribed.
- Whether custody is awarded to one or both parents, we will ask that you furnish us with a copy of the custody decree.
- The child's medical record is the property of Primary Care Health Partners. Unless forbidden by a court order, the child's record may be viewed by either parent. Copies can be furnished following a written request. There may be a fee for making copies. If requested, every effort will be made to exclude demographic information, but this cannot be guaranteed.
- Please keep us informed if your child is seen by an outside provider or clinic. It is important that your child have one clearly identified medical home which is responsible for his or her wellness care, including immunizations, and supervision of any ongoing health issues.