

Information Sheet – GP clinic at Mabel Park State High School

For parents

Helping students access the health care they need

Mabel Park State High School will have a doctor (GP) working at the school in 2019. This will mean students can get the health information, advice and treatment they need to be safe and healthy.

This brochure provides information about the GP Clinic. **The Mabel Park School GP clinic will be operated by UQ Health Care**

Can my child consent (agree) to medical treatment?

Queensland law is clear about consent for medical treatment by a GP:

- Young people who are mature minors can consent (agree) to their own medical treatment.
- Young people who are not mature minors cannot give consent (agree) to their own medical treatment.

Any student at Mabel Park SHS who wants to make an appointment with the GP can do so. The GP will then decide if the student is a mature minor for the problem they want treatment for. This is the case with any doctor in a local community general practice.

What is a mature minor?

Mature minors are young people under the age of 18 years who are considered capable of obtaining health care for their particular problem themselves, without permission from a parent or carer.

How will the GP decide whether a young person is a mature minor?

To decide whether a young person is a mature minor and can consent (agree) to their own medical treatment, the GP will consider:

- age
- maturity in other areas of the young person's life

- independence – whether they live at home with a parent or carer, or support themselves;
- how serious the treatment is; and
- if the young person understands what their health problem is, why treatment is needed, what the treatment involves, what other options they have, things that might go wrong (like side effects from drugs, or other complications), and what happens if there is no treatment.

What if my child is not a mature minor?

The decision about whether a young person is a mature minor might be different depending on the problem. For example, the GP may decide a young person is mature enough to agree to treatment for a health condition such as asthma, but may not be mature enough to understand risks and benefits of antidepressant medication (to treat depression).

If the GP decides your child is not a mature minor, they must get your consent (agreement) before any medical treatment is provided.

Can I come to the appointment with my child?

Yes - if your child would like you to. Parent or carer involvement is encouraged. We recognise that parents and carers can be an important source of support and information for your child in managing the issue they are seeing the GP for.

What if I don't want my child to see a GP?

You should talk about this with your child and with the school. Generally, all high school students will be considered mature enough to make a decision to see the GP. The GP will then decide if the student is a mature minor for the reason they are visiting the GP. This approach is the same even if your child is seeing a doctor in a local community general practice.



Children's Health Queensland
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Will the GP involve me?

There will be many circumstances where it will be helpful or necessary for you to be involved.

If your child is not a mature minor, the GP will always involve a parent or carer or another responsible adult.

If your child is considered a mature minor by the GP, the GP may see your child alone if that is what your child wants. However, the GP will often encourage your child to involve you in their care.

Would I ever find out about my child's GP visit?

If the GP decides that your child is a mature minor, their health information cannot be discussed with you or anyone else unless the young person says it is ok to share, or the sharing of the information is permitted or required by law. This is called confidentiality.

The following are examples of when disclosure (sharing) of health information is permitted or required by law:

- Your child consents to sharing the information.
- Sharing information is necessary to prevent a serious threat to public health, safety or welfare – e.g. your child has an illness that must be notified to the Department of Health.
- Sharing information is necessary to lessen or prevent a serious and imminent threat to any person's health, safety or welfare. For example:
 - Your child is at risk of harming or hurting themselves.
 - Your child is at risk of harming or hurting someone else.

To maintain confidentiality, school staff will not tell you when your child has seen the GP unless your child agrees, or there are other legal reasons for sharing this information.

Will there be a cost for my child to see the GP?

No. All visits with the GP will be free of charge to you and your child.

When can my child get their own Medicare card?

Young people can apply for their own Medicare card when they turn 15. They need to fill in an application form and provide identification, such as a student

card or birth certificate, as well as details about the card they are transferring from.

Where will my child's medical record be kept?

The medical records will belong to the GP's base clinic – UQ Healthcare Meadowbrook.

Can the GP refer (send) my child to other health services if needed?

Yes. In some cases, you may also be included in these referrals.

What if my child already has a GP?

If your child already has a GP but would like to see the GP at school, your child's medical records can be transferred. This is what happens in other GP practices. It is important and encouraged so that all health providers your child sees have up to date information.

If your child is a mature minor, they can consent (agree) to the transfer of their own medical records.

If your child is not a mature minor, you can consent (agree) to the transfer of your child's medical records.

What services will the GP be providing?

The GP working at the school will provide students with many of the same services that GPs do in the community, including management of physical health, mental health, and sexual and reproductive health issues.

However the GP will not have the equipment to manage injuries and no medications (drugs) will be kept on school premises.

For more information please visit:

<https://mabelparkshs.eq.edu.au/Facilities/Pages/MP-Clinic.aspx>

<https://www.uqhealthcare.org.au/>

Or email: gp@mabelparkshs.eq.edu.au