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Pediatric age limit extended across Michigan Medicine

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A recent policy change established by Michigan Medicine is designed to provide optimal care and service for young adult patients.

Effective Sept. 1, individuals requiring medical care prior to their 21st birthday will be cared for by pediatric specialists associated with C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

The [American Academy of Pediatrics recommends pediatric care be extended](#) through an individual's 21st birthday. The shift is also consistent with the policies of most major academic medical centers.

“Our pediatric providers are trained to provide care from birth through an individual's 21st birthday, and even further into adulthood for some conditions that begin in childhood,” noted [Marie Lozon, M.D.](#), pediatric emergency medicine physician and associate chief clinical officer.

“Young adulthood is an important time to reinforce the importance of preventative care and continuity of care. Extending access to pediatric care for these patients allows us to ensure continuity of care and best support patients during this important transition into adulthood.”

In particular, the following patterns of care may affect young adult patients:

- New patients referred to any Michigan Medicine clinic prior to their 21st birthday will be assisted in connecting with the appropriate pediatric clinic to schedule an appointment.

- Patients under the age of 21 requiring emergency care may utilize Children’s Emergency Services at C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital. Patients under the age of 21 who present to University Hospital for emergency care will be triaged and, as appropriate, transferred to Children’s Emergency Services at Mott Children’s Hospital for evaluation.
- Patients under age 21 who require admission and are cared for by pediatric providers will be admitted to C. S. Mott Children’s Hospital.

Exceptions to the pediatric age limit extension include:

- Patients under age 21 who are already under the care of Michigan Medicine adult specialist clinics will **not** need to transition outpatient care to a pediatric specialist and should continue to use Adult Emergency Services. Should a patient under the age of 21 need to be admitted to the hospital, he or she will be admitted to University Hospital.
- Psychiatric care is unaffected by the pediatric care age limit extension. Both pediatric and adult emergency psychiatric services are co-located at Michigan Medicine psychiatric emergency services. In accordance with Michigan law, patients age 18 and over requiring psychiatric hospitalization will be admitted to the adult psychiatric unit in University Hospital.
- Level I and Level II trauma patients ages 18+ will continue to be triaged to University Hospital emergency services, consistent with American College of Surgeons trauma center guidelines.

U-M providers work collaboratively across pediatric and adult services to transition patient care seamlessly as they approach their 21st birthday. Further, U-M providers are happy to assist patients in securing referrals to adult providers outside the region as needed.

Additional details are available by [clicking here](#).

