



You are turning 16 soon. Congratulations from everyone at St. Jude!

When you turn 18, you will be responsible for your own health care decisions. You will have different choices than you do now, even if you still see your St. Jude team. We want to help you get ready, starting now.

How is health care different when I am a legal adult?

In the past, your St. Jude team and your family have talked to you about your disease and treatments. By law, your parents or guardians gave consent for your care. But when you turn 18, you will be the one to sign the consent forms and decide about your care.

This is a legal change. Your parents or guardians can stay as involved in your care as you want. They can give you advice or help you think about your choices.

Things to think about between 16 and 18

You have some time to do the things below before you turn 18.

- Talk with your parents or guardians about how you want them involved in your care.
- Talk about whether your health insurance changes when you turn 18.
- Learn your health history from your doctor and your family.
- Learn about advance directives. An advance directive is a document that can give your health care wishes. You can also choose someone to make health care decisions if you cannot make them.

When you turn 18, you also have more rights as a patient. You can read more about these rights and other issues in the information with this letter. This information includes a letter to your parents, information on going from children's to adult health care, and a personal health checklist.

This information is to help you take part in your care and get ready to make health care decisions. Call _____ to talk with a social worker about this information or what happens when you turn 18.

We wish you a very happy birthday. Congratulations and best wishes!

Sincerely,