

## Differences between paediatric and adult health care

	Paediatric services	Adult services	Helpful hints
Independence and self-management	Questions are more likely to be directed to your parents/carers	Questions are directed to you and you're expected to know all about your health condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you're unsure about your health condition or treatment don't be afraid to ask</li> <li>• Write your questions down</li> <li>• Be confident and honest</li> </ul>
	Your parents/carers book appointments for you	You book and keep track of your own appointments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book your appointments well in advance</li> <li>• Ring and reschedule if you can't make it</li> </ul>
	You are on your family's Medicare, health care and health insurance accounts	Get your own Medicare card (or a copy of your family card)	Visit <a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au">www.humanservices.gov.au</a> for information how
	Your parents/carers may take you to all your appointments	You may need to travel on your own	Allow plenty of time to get to your appointment
	Your parents/carers may arrange things about your care for you – scripts, consumables, servicing of equipment	You will be expected to know how to look after you and take responsibility for your cares	Strive to be independent, but keep your parents/carers informed to a degree that you are comfortable with
Information	Doctors give information and use language that you can understand. If you don't understand you can ask your parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult services should use language that you understand</li> <li>• You may see a different doctor each time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you don't understand something a doctor tells you, ask them to explain it to you</li> <li>• Be clear about how they can help you</li> </ul>



	Paediatric services	Adult services	Helpful hints
Environment	PCH is familiar to you and you know your way around. You will mainly have children and young people around you	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult services will be new and unfamiliar - ask someone for directions until you're familiar</li> <li>• You will mainly have older people around you</li> </ul>	Visit and familiarise yourself with the new health service before you transition
Links to services	You may have been linked to services just within PCH	You are more likely to be referred to services outside the hospital, in several different places	Request referrals to services as close to home as possible
Costs	Most services at PCH are free	Adult services charge extra for items like equipment & medication Consumables aren't provided by adult services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of any extra costs</li> <li>• Understand what financial support you can get and have it in place prior to transition</li> </ul>



Government of **Western Australia**  
Child and Adolescent Health Service



**This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.**

**Child and Adolescent Health Service**  
15 Hospital Avenue, Nedlands, WA, 6009  
Telephone: (08) 6456 2222  
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