

Differences between paediatric and adult healthcare

| | Paediatric services | Adult services | Helpful hints |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Independence and self-management | Questions are more likely to be directed at your parents/carers | Questions are directed at you and you're expected to know all about you | If you're unsure about your health, condition or treatment don't be afraid to ask. Write your questions down. Be confident and honest. |
| | Your parents/carers book appointments for you | You book and keep track of your own appointments | Book your appointments well in advance. Ring and reschedule if you can't make it. |
| | You are on your family's Medicare, healthcare and health insurance accounts | Get your own Medicare card (or a copy of your family card) | Visit <u>www.humanservices.gov.au</u> 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 manage your healthcare and take responsibility for your own medical supplies | Strive to be independent but keep your parents/carers informed to a degree that you are comfortable with |

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| Information | Doctors give information and use language that you can understand. If you don't understand you can ask your parents. | Adult services should use language that you understand. You may see a different doctor each time. | If you don't understand something a doctor tells you, ask them to explain it to you. Be clear about how they can help you. |
| Environment | CAHS is familiar to you and you know your way around. You will mainly have children and young people around you. | Adult services will be new and unfamiliar - ask someone for directions until you're familiar. You will mainly have older people around you. | Visit and familiarise yourself with the new health service before you transition |
| Links to services | You may have been linked to services just within CAHS | You are more likely to be referred to services in several different places | Request referrals to services as close to home as possible |
| Costs | Most services in CAHS are free | Adult services charge extra for items like equipment and medication. Consumables aren't provided by adult services. | Be aware of any extra costs. Understand what financial support you can get and have it in place prior to transition. |





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

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Produced by: CAHS Transition to Adult Services Ref: 1124 © CAHS 2019 Revised 2022

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