



Children's National
Medical Center[®]

Adolescent Transition Policy at Children's National Medical Center

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The sickle cell program provides comprehensive medical care and psychosocial services to patients from birth to 21 years of age.

Transition is the carefully planned movement of patients from pediatric to adult care. It is a gradual process that is provided in a well-coordinated and uninterrupted manner. Your transition from Children's National Medical Center to an adult hospital will vary depending on your individual needs.

As you become an older adolescent, your hematologist, nurse practitioner, and social worker will work closely with you to prepare for adult care. The STRIVE program of after-school mentoring & tutoring, STEP adolescent transition and support group, and eSTEP computer-based educational modules offer ways to help you make the transition

Transition not may occur at 21 years of age for everybody. Here are some examples of possible exceptions:

- pregnancy, because Children's National cannot provide obstetrical services.
- need for adult services that Children's National does not have. For example, our child psychiatry department does not cover patients over 18 years old.
- earlier than 21 for those moving away from home for college or other activities. Sickle cell care at the new location is likely to be with an adult hematologist.
- earlier than 21 for a patient's personal choice
- later than 21 years if it will take just a few months of continuity care to resolve a medical issue, such as adjustment of blood pressure medication to a stable dosage.