

What changes when you turn 12 or 16?

Up to age 12

Who decides about treatment?

The parent* decides about treatment.

Sharing medical information

The parent gives permission.

Information about the illness and treatment

The parent receives information.

The child receives appropriate information.

Consent for scientific research

The parent gives permission.

Access to the medical file (patient portal)

The parent may access the medical file.



Ages 12 through 15

Who decides about treatment?

The child and parent decide together. Both must give consent.

Sharing medical information

Both the child and the parent must give permission.

Information about the illness and treatment

The child and parent receive information.

Consent for scientific research

The child and parent together give permission.

Access to the medical file (patient portal)

The child has the right to access their medical file. The parent can only access it with the child's permission. The child gives permission [using this form](#) or [DigiD](#).



Age 16 and older

Who decides about treatment?

The child decides. The parent often stays involved, if the child prefers this.

Consent for scientific research

The child gives permission.

Information about the illness and treatment

The child receives information.

If the child cannot make decisions (lacks decision-making capacity)

A child aged 12 or older may lack decision-making capacity if it cannot make decisions about their treatment. For example, because of a developmental delay or because it is unconscious.

Access to the medical file (patient portal)

The child has the right to access their medical file. The parent or another person can only access the child's medical file with the child's permission. The child gives permission [using this form](#) or [DigiD](#).

In that case:

- Up to age 18: the parent decides.
- When the child turns 18, several options are possible. More information can be found at [Wilsonbekwaam | Regelhulp](#) (only in Dutch).

Sharing medical information

The child gives permission.



* By 'parent' we mean the parent or parents with parental authority or the legal guardian.