

Patient Charts – Whose Information Is it Anyway?

Family Issues

BC Children's Hospital

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As an active member of your child's healthcare team, you may find yourself wondering what caregivers are writing in your child's chart. We have shifted from

“We do not give the chart except for exceptions.”

to

“We do give the chart except for exceptions.”

To Access Your Child's Chart, ask a hospital staff member involved in your child's care. They will:

- Check that you are the patient or the legal guardian of the patient.
- Give you a 'Chart Access Information Form' to you to read and sign.
- Check that there are no exceptions.

The exceptions where you may not be given access to a chart are:

- The child has been identified as one in need of protection.
- The chart contains third party information that may be harmful. A third party is a person who is NOT the patient, the legal guardian, or a hospital staff member, doctor or volunteer.
- The staff member has a reason to believe that the patient or their legal guardian has not given consent freely.
- The chart has been secured for legal reasons.

If there is an exception, the 'Information and Privacy Coordinator' is called to make a decision based on legal knowledge to protect your child's rights and safety.

[As a parent, you always have the right if the patient is an infant or a young child.](#)

[If your child is able to understand the information in the chart, then they own the information and you will need to get their permission to see the chart \(unless they were admitted under the Mental Health Act\).](#)

To put it simply, most parents need to just ask a member of the healthcare team if they want to see the chart.

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