



SFUSD Sexual Health Referral Protocols/Procedures

Students who are referred for confidential medical services are connected to local adolescent friendly clinics for reproductive health/sexual health issues. All students referred to Wellness services sign a consent form which includes FERPA information. Wellness staff then assist students to:

- Navigate making the appointment
- Facilitating getting to the appointment (including releasing the student from school)
- Providing follow up check-ins after the appointment.

The standard referral approach utilized in SFUSD includes several options in which a student will access services first on site, and then, if after consultation with the school social worker (Wellness Coordinator), School District Nurse, or Mental Health Therapist, the student is referred for services off site if the services cannot be provided at one of the two sexual health clinics operating within SFUSD.

In collaboration with the Department of Public Health Primary Care Youth Programs, each Wellness Program has a list of youth friendly neighborhood clinics in close proximity to either the students' schools or homes. The list of clinics has been compiled by the School Health Programs Office with key information including hours of operation, staff contacts, and services provided. These are publicized in every school, and distributed widely via small "palm cards." Wellness staff consider the following issues when considering making an appropriate match for students:

- The nature of services offered at the clinic
- Youth friendly care
- Culturally sensitive services inclusive of race, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation
- Proximity to either school or student home.

Students can receive primary care, sexual health care including STD/HIV testing, pregnancy testing and services, and pregnancy options counseling at these clinics. Making an appropriate match is therefore imperative.

All Wellness Programs have student health rights and confidentiality laws posted. These confidentiality rights and laws are then explained when students consent to services.

These rights and laws are found in the Sexual Health and Adolescent Provider Toolkit. (<http://www.ahwg.net/knowledgebase/nodates.php?pid=79&tpid=2>).

Wellness staff have training in utilizing the Sexual Health Adolescent Provider Toolkit.

Referrals are made in one of three ways to the High School Wellness Programs:

- Self-referrals
- Referrals from teachers, staff, administrators, peers
- Family/parent/guardian referrals

See attached Wellness referral form. However, not all referrals are made via paper. Students are also escorted into the Wellness Programs by faculty/administrators, and students drop in with requests to see Wellness staff.

Once the student is with the health care provider in the Wellness Program, and assessment warrants a referral to an off-site clinic, (see assessment section Sexual Health Adolescent Provider Toolkit) the health care provider facilitates the process.

The school health care provider contacts the identified clinic with the student present and facilitates an appointment. If the appointment is to take place during school hours, the student can be excused under the state law protecting confidential medical services. See the attached procedure for Releasing Students for Confidential Medical Services.

At the clinic site, students sign consent for services and HIPAA forms.

When students return to the school site, they check in with the referral source (usually the school district nurse), show the appointment verification slip from the clinic, and if warranted, the nurse will have the student complete a release of information to discuss confidential information with the community clinic. Likewise, the student will complete a release of information at the clinic. Follow up appointments can take place at either the school Wellness Program or at the clinic. Signed releases of information facilitate both the sharing of information and follow up treatment between community healthcare and Wellness staff.