INFORMATION FOR CHILD PATIENTS AND THEIR PARENTS

Welcome to the General University Hospital in Prague. We appreciate your confidence and your free decision to choose our Hospital out of the range of health care providers. Let us inform you about the rights and duties connected with the health care provided to a minor.

Consent to hospitalization

To admit a minor to hospital, it is necessary that the Guardian gives a written consent on the form "Consent to hospitalization at the General University Hospital". Hospitalization without the Guardian's consent is only possible in cases provided by Article §§ 38 of the Act # 372/2011 Coll., the Health Service Act.

Information about the state of health

After the minor's admission to care and also whenever useful, concerning the health care provided and/or the patient's state of health, the Guardian must be informed about the minor's state of health, the proposed individual course of treatment and its changes (thereinafter "information about state of health") in an intelligible way and to the sufficient extent, and he/she must get the chance to ask additional questions related to the minor's state of health, which must be answered in an intelligible way. This will also apply when health care is provided by the virtue of the minor's consent.

When providing health care to a minor patient, it is necessary to learn about his/her attitude to the intended health care procedures, if he/she is adequately mature in the mental and volitional aspects and considering the age. This opinion must be taken as a factor whose relevancy grows proportionally to the age and mental maturity of the minor patient.

The attending health staff must be given true information about the minor's previous health, including information about any infectious diseases, health care given by any other providers, use of any medicinal preparations including use of addictive drugs, and other facts relevant to providing health services.

Consent to health care procedures

Consent to health care procedures in minors is given by the Guardian.

Without consent, a minor can only receive emergency care, such as treatment for a serious mental disorder if negligence is most likely to result in serious damage to health, or if the health care is necessary to save the life or prevent serious damage to health. In these cases it is the doctor that decides on providing the health care procedures.

Health care procedures can also be provided by the virtue of the minor's consent if understanding such a procedure is within his/her mental and volitional capacity appropriate to the age and when the intervention is of such a kind that does not involve permanent or serious consequences, but when it is not the case, the Guardian's consent is required.

If health care procedures are intended to be provided to a minor who is fourteen years old or older but has not gained full legal capacity yet, the intervention cannot be performed without the consent of a civil court if the patient strongly opposes it although the Guardian agrees on the intervention. If the Guardian disagrees on an intervention involving the minor's integrity, although the minor wishes the intervention, this intervention can only be performed with the consent of a court to his/her proposal or a proposal by a close person.

If one of the parents acts alone on the child's behalf, it is presumed that he/she acts with the other parent's consent. However, if the parents do not reach an agreement on an issue that is important for the child, particularly concerning his/her interest, or if one of the parents has debarred the other parent from deciding on

an issue significant for the child, the parent has to appeal to a court for decision. Significant issues mean therapeutic or similar interventions that are not common. However, when a situation occurs as described in the second paragraph of this section, it will be the attending physician that decides on performance of health care procedures.
The aim of all staff of the Hospital is ensuring the quality of the care as well as other services. Possible discontent can be expressed through direct contact with the principal of the particular unit, the Hospital's ombudsman or through a complaint – see www.vfn.cz.

Presence of the parents
During the stay in the Hospital, a minor patient has the right of continuous presence of his/her parent or a person designated by the Guardian, a fostering person or another person put in charge of the care of the patient by decision of a court or other relevant authority, as provided by the internal regulations of the particular health care facility.

A minor patient has the right to require that a person he/she has been maltreated or otherwise abused or neglected by is not present while health care is provided.

The minor is obliged to observe the suggested individual regimen of therapy, the Guardian is obliged to co-operate, and both the minor and the Guardian present are obliged to observe the internal regulations of the particular health care facility, and to abstain from alcohol and/or other addictive substances when in hospital, and – if ordered by the attending doctor in substantiated cases – to undergo investigation to ascertain whether they are under the influence of alcohol and/or other addictive substances or not.

On termination of the hospitalization, the Guardian will be informed of the minor's discharge from the Hospital in good time.

In minor patients from families that are seriously socially challenged, the Hospital must inform the relevant local authorities of the community corresponding to the address of the patient's residence. If the patient is resident in Prague, the metropolitan authorities of Prague shall be informed.

On discharge, the patient will be provided with medicinal preparations and medical supplies for 3 days, or for a longer time as necessary in substantiated cases, and will receive a discharge summary, which will be advanced to the minor patient's General Practitioner (if known to the Hospital).

If the Hospital has provided care that is not covered or is only partly covered by public health insurance or other resources, the Guardian is obliged to cover the price of the health care that was provided with a consent.