

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF STUDENTS IN WISCONSIN THROUGH HEALTH CARE TRANSITION

A structured pediatric-to-adult health care transition (HCT) process can support students who have an IEP to achieve their postsecondary goals. Successful transitions to college, employment, and independent living often depend on the ability of youth and young adults to manage their own health care and navigate adult systems of care. This can include knowledge of:

- health care needs
- medications and how to refill them
- what to do in a medical emergency
- how to make a doctor's appointment
- decision-making may change at age 18
- having and carrying health insurance information
- how to request accommodations, if needed

Key Facts from the 2021-22 National Survey of Children's Health¹

- As of 2021-2022, there were 131,000 youth ages 12-17 in Wisconsin who had a special health care need
- 69% of youth with special health care needs in Wisconsin did not receive services necessary for transition to adult health care

Wisconsin is one of 36 states and territories that have selected HCT as a National Performance Measure

Effective Pediatric-to-Adult Health Care Transition Results In...

- ↑ Adherence to care
- ↑ Adult clinic attendance
- ↑ Patient satisfaction
- ↑ Quality of life
- ↑ Self-care skills
- ↓ Lapse in care
- ↓ Perceived barriers to care
- ↓ Hospital admission rates
- ↓ Hospital lengths of stay
- ↓ Morbidity and mortality

SCHOOL NURSES CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- ✓ Get involved in IEPs and PTPs
- ✓ Talk with students about how to ask their doctor questions.
- ✓ Help students learn to describe their symptoms.
- ✓ Help them learn their doctor's name.
- ✓ Help students learn their diagnosis.
- ✓ Encourage students to spend time alone with their doctor.
- ✓ Help them put emergency contacts in their phone.

Use time set aside for parent-teacher conferences to meet with students and their caregivers to discuss healthcare transition and changes in consent and privacy.

STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE HCT FOR STUDENTS IN WISCONSIN

- ✓ Provide [trainings](#) on HCT for Health Care Providers, Educators, Employers and others
- ✓ Make HCT resources from [Health Transition Wisconsin](#) available on state and other local agency websites
- ✓ Create messaging around how health is important and interrelated to postsecondary employment, education, and independent living
- ✓ Encourage use of [HCT readiness assessments](#) and [sample goals](#) as part of the IEP transition planning process
- ✓ Elicit feedback from students and families on how HCT could best be incorporated into special education
- ✓ Contact [Youth Health Transition Initiative](#)² about piloting the [HCT readiness assessments](#) and [sample goals](#)
- ✓ Co-create local solutions with the [Wisconsin Integrated Transition Planning Project](#)

Got Transition® is operated by The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health.

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. National Survey of Children's Health. Available at: <https://www.childhealthdata.org/>

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For information about Wisconsin's Title V transition efforts, contact healthtransitionwi@waisman.wisc.edu. For additional HCT resources, visit GotTransition.org.

