

Information and recommendations for separated parents

We embrace all sorts of families, and many children who attend the clinic come from separated families. Our role is to provide and recommend appropriate care, with your child's health, well-being and welfare as our priority. Conflict and communication breakdown within families can limit collaboration with health care providers and impact optimal treatment outcomes for the child. The purpose of this policy is to outline our philosophy to ensure that the best interests of our patients are always prioritised.

- It is our expectation that separated parents work together respectfully and cooperatively, regarding the care of their child.
- It is expected that each parent/carer will inform the other if they are attending an appointment with/or without your child, as well as communicate the outcome of appointments such as: prescriptions, management of medication, investigations, or referrals to other parties.
- Decisions regarding a child's medical treatment (e.g. whether to commence medication) should be made jointly by both parents wherever possible
- It is the parents' obligation to provide us a copy of any relevant legal documents or court order.
- Either parent or legal guardian can
 - schedule an appointment with their child,
 - be present at their appointment
 - and/or be sent a copy of correspondence letters
- unless there is a court order restricting their involvement in their child's care.
- If you wish to see the Paediatrician without your child, the appointment should be booked under your name. There is no Medicare rebate available for these appointments.
- Clinic reports will be sent to the parent who attends the appointment and it is the responsibility of that parent to forward to other parent. We welcome both parents to attend appointments and will provide copies of correspondence to each parent, if specifically requested.
- Payment is to be made on the day of the child's appointment. If there is a legal agreement that requires the other parent to pay all or part of the treatment costs, it is the attending parent's responsibility to settle account and collect reimbursement from the other parent.
- Your child's Paediatrician or the staff at The Launceston Health Hub are not responsible in ensuring shared care arrangements are met by either parent
- Where there is significant conflict, we reserve the right to request the court orders, obtain signed consent from both parents, or limit our services until dispute has been resolved. If necessary, we may discharge a family from the clinic if the conflict is disruptive to the clinic or impedes the care of the child.
- We do not provide expert family assessment information for the purposes of legal decision making around custody issues of parental separation.

We try our best to accommodate all family circumstances. Help us to provide the best care for your child by providing all information about your family at your first appointment, or as your circumstances change.