

Mature Minor Assessment for Naloxone Kit Distribution

Definition

A **Mature Minor** is a minor (individual under the age of 18) who can understand and appreciate the nature, risks and consequences of a proposed treatment or procedure, including its ethical, emotional, and physical aspects and can provide consent without the input of their legal representative. The Mature Minor's guardians cannot override the Mature Minor's decision.

Note: The Most Responsible Health Practitioner (i.e., physician, NP or RN) must document their decision to determine that the individual is a Mature Minor in the patient's health record. The risks of **not providing** a kit to the minor that could potentially overdose must be carefully weighed as part of the decision

Factors to consider

An individual under the age of 18 may be assessed and determined to be a Mature Minor. Several factors must be considered while assessing whether a minor can be deemed to be a Mature Minor and include:

Age	Age alone will not determine a minor's capacity to provide consent. In exceptional circumstances, a minor under the age of 14 years may be deemed to be a Mature Minor.
Intelligence	The minor's ability to understand the nature, benefits, risks, consequences and alternatives to medical care or treatment. The minor's decision-making capability and understanding and appreciation of critical information is important.
Maturity	The minor's ability to provide reliable information and to make important decisions
Serious healthcare-related decisions	The importance, intrusiveness, complexity and seriousness of the treatment/procedure increases the required level of maturity
Freedom from Parental/Guardian control, self-supporting, married or has children	Indications of independence that may support a minor's increased level of maturity