Hamilton Medical Centre

Separated Parents Policy

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Hamilton Medical Centre – Separated Parents Policy

Introduction
Our focus is on the medical, psychological, and emotional requirements of the children and families that we see.

Amongst the children who use our services, many come from separated families. Conflict and communication breakdown within families can limit collaboration with health care providers and impact optimal treatment outcomes for the child.

Purpose and objectives
The purpose of this policy is to outline our work practices and expectations of families to ensure that the best interests of our patients are always prioritised.

Scope
This policy applies to all families, carers, and children of families who identify as being separated.

The Policy
It is our expectation that separated parents work together respectfully and cooperatively, regarding the care of their child.

We request that any relevant legal documents or court orders outlining custody of the child or restricting parental involvement are provided prior to the consultation or as they become available.

Either parent or legal guardian can:
- schedule an appointment with their child;
- be present at their appointment;
- be sent a copy of their reports;
- unless there are court orders preventing this.

If the appointment is made by one parent, it is the responsibility of this parent to inform the other parent, invite them to attend, and provide feedback to them. Decisions regarding a child's medical treatment (e.g., whether to commence medication, initiate a referral etc) should be made jointly by both parents wherever possible.

Where there is a fee due for the child's appointment and there is 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 the account and collect reimbursement from the other parent.

We always try our best to accommodate all family circumstances. Please help us to provide the best care for your children by providing all information regarding your family situation, at the earliest opportunity.