

5.2 Adolescents

Children's perception of pain and levels of procedural distress tend to decrease with age. Adolescents may have a greater understanding of why a medical procedure is necessary and have developed effective coping strategies for pain [4]. However, when preparing for medical procedures it is important to be mindful that:

- Adolescents may deny or minimise pain when asked in front of family or peers
- Adolescents seek information about their treatment but check in how much information is required about the procedure and how much privacy they need for managing procedural pain.
- The support an adolescent requires for managing procedural pain may increase if they are unwell. Their preferences for using coping strategies and for parental presence may change.