

Chaperone Policy: Summary

This practice is committed to providing a safe and comfortable environment and strives to achieve good practice at all times. A chaperone is a trained person whose role is to independently observe the examination/procedure being undertaken. They can also provide emotional support and reassurance during examinations.

All patients are entitled to have a chaperone present during any consultation, examination or procedure. Clinicians at this practice will advise patients that a chaperone is necessary during any intimate examination; this is to safeguard both the clinician and you, the patient.

If the patient requests a chaperone and an appropriate chaperone is not available for example requesting a chaperone of the same sex as yourself, the clinician will ask you to make an appointment and request the presence of a chaperone at the time of booking.

If the offer of a chaperone is declined, but the clinician feels they are at risk without a chaperone present they will explain this and then offer to re book with a clinician of the same sex. It may well be that a clinician of the same sex may still feel a chaperone is necessary.

We only use clinical staff as chaperones as they have had the appropriate training and have knowledge of the examination or procedure you may be undergoing.

Family and friends are not permitted to act as chaperones as they do not have the knowledge required, nor do they have the necessary training.

Should you wish to see the full chaperone policy, please ask to speak to the Practice Manager.

If you have any questions, please speak to the reception staff who will direct you to an appropriate member of the team.