

CHAPERONE POLICY

1. All patients are entitled to have a chaperone present for any consultation, examination or procedure where they consider one is required.
2. The chaperone may be a family member or friend, but on occasions a formal chaperone may be preferred at the request of the patient or the healthcare professional.
3. Patients are advised to ask for a chaperone if required, at the time of booking an appointment, if possible, so that arrangements can be made and the appointment is not delayed in any way.
4. The healthcare professional may require a chaperone to be present for certain consultations or examinations.
5. All staff are aware of and have received appropriate information in relation to this Chaperone Policy.
6. All trained chaperones understand their role and responsibilities and are competent to perform that role.
7. If a chaperone has been present, the fact and identity of the chaperone will be recorded in the patient's notes.
8. There is no common definition of a chaperone and their role varies considerably depending on the needs of the patient, the healthcare professional and the examination being carried out.
9. The role of the chaperone can be considered in any of the following areas:
 - Emotional comfort and reassurance to patients
 - Assist in examination
 - Assist in undressing
 - Act as interpreter
 - Protection to the healthcare professional against allegations