

Chaperone Procedure

PURPOSE OF THE PROCEDURE

To inform practitioners undertaking examinations of patients or procedures of the trusts required practice for the use of chaperones. To inform practitioners acting as chaperones with details of trust expectations of their behaviour. This procedure applies to all employees including locum, bank and agency staff providing direct care. Additionally it applies to all patients as all should be offered a chaperone. The needs and wishes of the patient should be considered even though the gender of the patient/chaperone irrelevant. Chaperones help safeguard the patient, the practitioner and the organisation from misinterpretation of actions.

Nothing in this policy should preclude the provision of urgent, life sustaining treatment in the absence of a chaperone

DEFINITION

A chaperone is an independent person, usually a health practitioner whose role is to independently observe an examination/procedure undertaken by a health professional. Intimate examinations include examinations of breasts genitalia and rectum. However, individual patients may find other examinations intimate depending on personal views, cultural norms or previous experience. Practitioners must be mindful of this. The full name of chaperones must always be recorded in medical records

For the purposes of this policy a child is anyone under the age of 18 years. In relation to decisions under the Mental Capacity Act capacity however, capacity assessments apply from the age of 16 years.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- [Mental Capacity Act 2005](#)
- [Consent to Treatment or Examination](#)
- [Medical Protection Society - Chaperones](#)
- [Medical Protection Society - Consent Children and Young People](#)
- [GMC - Intimate Examinations and Chaperones](#)

USEFUL CONTACTS

Modern Matrons
Heads of Nursing
Safeguarding Team

