



Chaperone Policy

We are committed to providing a safe, comfortable environment where patients and staff can be confident that best practice is always being followed and the safety of everyone is of paramount importance.

All patients are entitled to have a chaperone present for any consultation, examination or procedure where they consider one is required. The chaperone may be a family member or friend, but on occasions a formal chaperone may be preferred.

Patients are advised to **ask for a chaperone at the time of booking an appointment**, if required, so that arrangements can be made, and the appointment is not delayed in any way.

Where this is not possible, we will endeavour to provide a formal chaperone at the time of request. However occasionally it may be necessary to reschedule your appointment.

The Healthcare Professional may also require a chaperone to be present for certain consultations in accordance with our chaperone policy.

All trained chaperones understand their role and responsibilities and are competent to perform that role.

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.

Their role can be considered in any of the following areas:

- Emotional comfort and reassurance to patients
- Assist in examination (e.g. during women's health clinics)
- Assist in undressing
- Act as interpreter
- Protection to the healthcare professional against allegations / attack

If you have any questions or comments regarding Chaperones, please contact the Practice Manager.