

POLICY & PROCEDURE



TITLE: Chaperoned Patient Exams				
Scope/Purpose: To provide a safe, comfortable environment for patients and staff during intimate exams				
Division/Department: All Clinics			Policy/Procedure #:	
Original Date: June 10, 2015			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement for:	
Date Reviewed:	Date Revised:	Implementation:	CPIC Approved:	Board Approved:
		07/22/2015	07/22/2015	
Responsible Party: Director of Nursing; COO				

DEFINITIONS:

None

POLICY:

When indicated with adult or pediatric patients, a nurse, medical assistant or other designated staff may be present in the exam room with the provider during intimate exams or procedures unless specifically requested otherwise by the patient.

Physicians should always communicate the scope and nature of the physical examination to be performed to the pediatric patient and his/ her parent. Parents also are encouraged to be present in the exam room.

The use of a chaperone should be a shared decision between the patient and physician in consideration of the patient comfort, confidentiality, and privacy.

PROCEDURE:

1. The purpose and scope of the physical examination should be made clear to the patient. For the pediatric patient the exam is discussed with the parents as well as the patient if he or she is old enough to understand.
2. If any part of the examination may be physically or psychologically uncomfortable, every effort should be made to support the patient and parent, including the use of measures to preserve privacy, such as gowns and drapes.
3. Whenever possible, the chaperone should be of the same gender as the patient.
4. For the rare situation in which the patient refuses an appropriate chaperone and the physician is concerned that providing the examination might result in false allegations or medico-legal risk,

the physician is not obligated to provide further treatment. Information should be provided to the patient regarding care alternatives, including another provider or seeking care elsewhere.

RELATED POLICY:

REFERENCES:

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Medical Association

REQUIRED BY:

ATTACHMENTS/ENCLOSURES:

POLICY/PROCEDURE TRACKING FORM (to be added as last page of each P&P for documentation of changes)

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