

Chaperone Policy.



Policy Outline

Revive Medical Solutions Ltd is committed to ensuring that our patients receive high-quality care in a safe and respectful environment. As part of our commitment to patient safety and dignity, we have developed a chaperone policy that applies to all patient examinations and procedures.

Scope:

- All staff
- All patients

Legal Framework

- The Health and Social Care Act 2007 Regulations 2014.
- Health and Social Care Act 2007 Regulations 2015

Objectives

- To be an impartial observer.
- To protect staff from allegations of mistreatment.
- To protect patients from mistreatment.

Policy

All medical staff, both male and female, consider whether an intimate examination of the patient is absolutely necessary.

The offer of a chaperone is given, if required, whether or not the clinician is the same gender as the patient.

Patients who request a chaperone are never examined without the chaperone present.

If either the medical staff or the patient does not want the treatment to go

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ahead without a chaperone present, or if either party is uncomfortable with the choice of chaperone, the offer to delay the treatment to a later time when a suitable chaperone will be available will be made, as long as the delay would not adversely affect the patient's health.

A chaperone is usually a health professional familiar with the procedures involved in a routine intimate examination, however for events this could be a family member/ friend/ carer.

The practice must keep evidence of a valid risk assessment for those staff who act as a chaperone and have not had a DBS check.

The chaperone will only be present for the examination itself and the remainder of the consultation will be conducted without the chaperone, unless the patient requests otherwise.

Conversations during the examination are professional and considerate at all times and relevant only to the examination.

Suitable notices are clearly visible in the policy and procedures.

Consideration is given that a chaperone may be requested during treatment that is not 'self-referred'.

A relative or friend of the patient is not an impartial observer and so would not usually be a suitable chaperone, but clinicians will comply with a reasonable request to have such a person present as well as a chaperone.

Procedure

Before conducting treatment, the medical staff:

- Explains to the patient why a treatment is necessary and gives the patient an opportunity to ask questions.
- Explains what the treatment will involve, in a way the patient can understand, so that the patient has a clear idea of what to expect, including any pain or discomfort
- Obtains the patient's permission before the treatment and document that the patient has given it
- See also the Consent Policy and Procedure
- Offers the patient a chaperone (if required)
- Ensures that the patient's privacy and dignity is respected, providing adequate privacy to undress and dress

At any time during the treatment the medical staff will stop if the patient asks them to.

Medical staff record any discussions about chaperones and the outcome in the patient's PRF. If a chaperone is present, it is recorded and a note made of their identity. If the patient does not want a chaperone, it is recorded that the offer was made and declined.

Review

Last Reviewed	Next Review Due	Who Reviewed
11/02/2023	11/02/2024	S