

Practice Policy on use of Chaperones.

This policy has been written in accordance with current medical opinion and since the Aylesbury ruling.

As a Practice, we are aware of a patient's right to privacy and also a patient's choice to have a chaperone present when intimate examinations are performed.

This policy has been agreed by all GPs and applies to all members of staff within the Practice.

We aim to offer each patient who has agreed to have an intimate examination the chance to have a chaperone present in the room.

Appropriate chaperones are:

- Practice nurse
- Health Care Assistant
- Receptionist (if clinical staff not available)
- Alternatively the patient may be happy for a family member to be present.

The chaperone is offered for protection of patient and GP and/or Nurse. This applies to both GPs and nurses performing examinations on patients of a different sex.

The chaperone should be placed discreetly behind a curtain and not in direct view of the procedure, and should leave the room as soon as the patient is dressed again.

For privacy, the patient should be allowed to dress and undress out of view behind a curtain and allowed a cover during the examination, for example couch roll or sheet over the abdomen during the taking of a smear.