

## CHAPERONE POLICY

Autism Clinic London is committed to providing a safe, comfortable environment where children, parent/guardian and staff can be confident that best practice is being followed at all times and the safety of everyone is of paramount importance.

A chaperone is an impartial observer present during an examination of a patient. A chaperone does not remove the need for adequate explanation and courtesy. Neither can it provide full assurance that the procedure or examination is conducted appropriately.

It is important that children and young people are provided with chaperones. The GMC guidance states that a relative or friend of the patient is not an impartial observer. They would not usually be a suitable chaperone.

Children are expected to be accompanied by a parent or guardian to whom the need for the examination will be explained and consent obtained. They will be expected to remain with the child during the examination. Information about how to request for a chaperone will be provided via email prior to appointment and on our website.

Chaperones should always be considered where a health professional is carrying out an examination. All patients are entitled to have a chaperone present for any consultation or examination.

The health care professional may also request for a chaperone to be present.

If the parent/guardian does not want a chaperone, record that the offer was made but declined with clear documentation in the notes.

All chaperones working for Autism Clinic London should have an understanding and follow:

1. GMC guidance ([https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/maintaining-boundaries-intimate-examinations-and-chaperones\\_pdf-58835231.pdf?la=en&hash=A6DCCA363F989E0304D17FBC4ECB9C1060028385](https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/maintaining-boundaries-intimate-examinations-and-chaperones_pdf-58835231.pdf?la=en&hash=A6DCCA363F989E0304D17FBC4ECB9C1060028385)).
2. The Medical Defence Union [guidance on chaperones](https://www.themdu.com/guidance-and-advice/guides/guide-to-chaperones). (<https://www.themdu.com/guidance-and-advice/guides/guide-to-chaperones>).

Although these guidance above refer to intimate examinations, Autism Clinic London expects the same approach for chaperones at our face to face assessments.

### Role of Chaperone

- Introduce themselves to the child, parent/guardian and explain the purpose of their presence.
- Provide emotional comfort and reassurance to patients, parent or guardian.

- Maintaining the patient's dignity, by only exposing the area requiring examination by using clothing, gowns and sheets.
- To act as a witness of the continuing consent to the examination.
- Have agreement from the parent/guardian to be present at the consultation.
- Maintain the confidentiality and comply with clinic policies.
- A record and details of the chaperone will be kept in the patient' notes.

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