

Chaperone Policy

Practitioners are required to follow the chaperone policy of their professional registering body.

For doctors this will be Professional standards ‘Intimate examinations and chaperones’ effective from 30 January 2024.

GMC has updated this piece of guidance to:

- highlight the importance of patients feeling as safe and as in control as possible. This includes making sure patients know they can ask questions or request for the examination to stop at any time.
- explain more about the settings intimate examinations might take place in, including via online and remote consultations.
- recognise that chaperones are not always available and explain what the options are if that is the case.

Nurses, physiotherapists and allied health professionals are similarly bound by policies issued by their registration and governing bodies in addition to what may be required by trusts and places of employment.

References:

Intimate examinations and chaperones

<https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/nmc-publications/nmc-code.pdf>

<https://www.csp.org.uk/professional-clinical/professional-guidance/scope-practice>

<https://www.csp.org.uk/publications/chaperoning-related-issues>