
Chaperoning of children

In the UK, a child is defined as someone under the age of 18 years old.

A child having an examination or clinical procedure of an intimate nature should always be accompanied by a chaperone. A chaperone will also be asked to attend during a conversation with a child about a sensitive issue.

We encourage a parent or carer to be present alongside a chaperone, although there may be some circumstances where this is not appropriate.

If you have any questions or wish to check anything, please speak to the nurse in charge.

Finally...

Always speak to a member of staff if you have any concerns or specific requests and we will do our best to help. You may wish to contact the hospital in advance of your visit, please find all contact details on your appointment letter.



The Trust provides free monthly health talks on a variety of medical conditions and treatments. For more information visit www.uhb.nhs.uk/health-talks.htm or call 0121 371 4323.

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NHS Foundation Trust**

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**Chaperones
at University
Hospitals
Birmingham**

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What is a chaperone?

A chaperone is a healthcare professional who may be present as an impartial observer during any examination, procedure or care that is of a close or intimate nature.

What does a chaperone do?

A chaperone:

- Provides comfort and reassurance throughout the examination or procedure.
- Protects both patient and healthcare professional against any potential allegations of inappropriate behaviour and abuse.
- Assists the healthcare professional during the examination as required.

Chaperones are fully trained and understand the examination or procedure being undertaken.

Can my partner, relative or friend act as chaperone?

Many patients feel reassured by the presence of a familiar person during an examination or procedure, so your partner, relative or friend may stay with you if you wish.

Please be aware that this individual cannot act as a chaperone during your examination, as the chaperone role requires a specifically-trained healthcare professional.

It can be helpful to think about what will make you feel most comfortable during your examination or procedure, as there could be matters you would prefer to discuss with the healthcare professional in confidence.

Children should not accompany adults undergoing any examinations, procedures or care of a close or intimate nature. Any exceptions to this rule must be mutually agreed by the patient and healthcare professional.

Will the hospital provide me with a chaperone?

Yes, all of our patients are entitled to have a chaperone accompany them should they wish. This can be helpful if you would like extra support during an examination or procedure, but do not want to have your partner, relative or friend in the room.

If you would like a chaperone to be present, please let a member of staff know.

Similarly, if you would prefer to be examined by a healthcare professional of the same gender as yourself, please let us know.

A chaperone should always be present during an intimate examination by a healthcare professional of a different gender to you.

What if I do not want a chaperone present?

The presence of a chaperone should only be with your agreement.

However, there may be some circumstances when an examination or procedure may not be able to continue without the presence of a chaperone.

In this situation, arrangements will be made for you to be seen by another healthcare professional. Please be aware this could cause a delay in you being seen and treated.

How can you ensure my privacy?

A chaperone is trained in maintaining confidentiality and will also have a good understanding of the type of examination or procedure being performed. It is our policy to respect your privacy and dignity at all times.
