

Your Right to a Chaperone

At Wells Health Centre your dignity, safety, and privacy matter to us.

What is a chaperone? A chaperone is a trained member of staff who is present during some types of medical examinations or procedures. They are there to:

- Support you
- Provide reassurance
- Protect your dignity
- Protect both you and the clinician

When can I ask for a chaperone? You can ask for a chaperone:

- During any physical examination
- If you feel nervous or uncomfortable
- If you are having an intimate examination (such as breast, genital, or rectal)

Will I always be offered a chaperone? Yes.

For certain types of examinations, a clinician **must** offer you a chaperone. You can:

- **Accept the offer**
- **Decline the chaperone** and proceed
- **Ask to postpone** the exam until a chaperone is available

Who can be a chaperone?

Our chaperones are trained members of staff. They may be:

- **Clinical staff** (nurses, healthcare assistants)
- **Non-clinical staff** (such as trained reception or admin staff) – they will not be involved in the procedure.

Can I bring a family member instead?

Yes, you can bring someone to support you, but they are **not a formal chaperone**. If you wish, we can still provide a trained chaperone as well.

What if I feel uncomfortable or want to stop?

Tell the clinician immediately. You can stop the examination at any time.

Chaperones are available during all normal opening hours. If we cannot provide one at your appointment time, we may rearrange the appointment for when one is available.