POLICY:

The Everett Clinic will provide a chaperone upon request of the patient or his or her parent or legal guardian.

PURPOSE:

To ensure that patient dignity and safety is protected and that providers are safeguarded from accusations of inappropriate patient contact.

PROCEDURE:

1. A chaperone must be offered in the following situations:
   a. Any pelvic, genital, rectal or breast exam on a patient, including a well child visit examination for children 11 years of age or older.
   b. Any physical exam performed upon an adolescent, or an adult patient with a pertinent psychiatric history or history of sexual abuse.
   c. Any diagnostic exams or therapeutic procedures that involve the insertion of instrumentation into the vagina or rectum or any imaging studies of the pelvis, breasts or genitalia.

2. Regardless of the exam performed, the use of a chaperone in the following situations is mandatory:
   a. A patient requests a chaperone
   b. A TEC provider requests a chaperone

3. Any time a chaperone is present, the identity of the chaperone should be noted in the chart.

4. Any patient or any provider may request a chaperone at any time and for any reason. This should be documented in the chart using the SmartPhrase .CHAPREQUESTED

   Chaperone Requested:
   The patient/guardian requested to have an Everett Clinic chaperone present for the completion of this exam. For this reason, _____ (employee name, title) was present for the patient's exam.
5. If a patient refuses a chaperone when one is offered, this will be noted in the medical record using the SmartPhrase CHAPREFUSED.

The patient/guardian was offered to have an Everett Clinic chaperone present for the completion of this exam. The patient/guardian refused this offer and instead the patient/guardian elected to not have an Everett Clinic Chaperone present. (However, __________ (Name and Relation), a non Everett Clinic chaperone was present for the exam per the patient/guardian approval). When possible, a chaperone should be the same gender as the patient.

6. A family member of the patient can serve as a chaperone if the patient and family member agree.

   a. At the discretion of the provider, an adolescent patient may be asked outside the presence of the family member about that family member serving as a chaperone.

REFERENCES:

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COMMITTEE ON PRACTICE AND AMBULATORY MEDICINE

**Policy Statement**: Use of Chaperones During the Physical Examination of the Pediatric Patient

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**Intranet Issues:**

- **Author/Contact**: Carrie Johnsen, Patient Safety and Risk Management
- **Reviewed by**: Barry Brown, MD, Chris Knapp, CLO
- **Key Words for Intranet Search Engine**: Minor, Witness, chaperone, patient examination, AD-232, 232
- **Distributed to**: Managers, Supervisors and Leads