

# **DARWEN HEALTHLINK**

## **CHAPERONE PROTOCOL**

**The NHS Clinical Governance Support Team (2005) reports that the role of the chaperone varies considerably depending on the needs of the patient, the health professional and the examination or procedure being carried out.**

### **The role of a chaperone**

- **provide emotional support and reassurance to patients**
- **assist with undressing patients**
- **assist in the examination, for example handing instruments to the doctor**
- **act as a witness to the patient's continuing consent during the procedure**
- **act as an interpreter**
- **provide health professionals with protection against unfounded allegations of improper behaviour**
- **identifying unusual or unacceptable behaviour on the part of the healthcare professional**
- **be present as a safeguard for all parties (patient and practitioners)**

**The Practice is committed to providing a safe, comfortable environment where patients and staff can be confident that best practice is being followed at all times. The safety of everyone is of paramount importance**

**All patients are entitled to have a chaperone present for any consultation, examination or procedure where they feel one is required. This chaperone**

**may be a family member or friend unless this is not deemed to be appropriate due to the age of the chaperone or the examination required.**

**On occasion you may prefer a formal chaperone to be present, i.e. a trained member of staff.**

**Wherever possible we would ask you to make this request at the time of booking the appointment so that arrangements can be made and your appointment is not delayed in any way. Where this is not possible we will endeavour to provide a formal chaperone at the time of request. However, occasionally it may be necessary to reschedule your appointment.**

**Your healthcare professional may also require a chaperone to be present for certain consultations in accordance with our chaperone policy.**

