



AME Partners Ltd Chaperone Policy

Intimate examinations and chaperones based on GMC guidelines (2013)

Introduction:

According to GMC Good Medical Practice GMP: You must provide a good standard of practice and care. AME Partners Ltd clients must be treated as individuals and their dignity and privacy respected.

This policy demonstrates how AME Partners Ltd can put these principles into practice.

Intimate examinations

All medical examinations are potentially distressing. Clients can find intimate examinations including those involving dimmed light such as ear examinations and ophthalmoscopy intrusive.

Why is a chaperone needed?

Chaperone policy is in place for the benefit of both clients and staff. For most clients, respect, explanation, consent and privacy take precedence over the need for a chaperone. The presence of a chaperone does not remove the need for adequate explanation and courtesy.

All clients should be offered the option of a chaperone on the website. In view of the fact that AME Partners Ltd is a single-handed practice, chaperones if requested by clients will need to be arranged in advance of the appointment. AME Partners Ltd policy regarding arranging an independent chaperone should be made clear on the website. This is to allow a mutually convenient time for an independent and qualified chaperone to be present during the medical examination.

All staff must be aware that chaperones are to protect both clients and staff.

Chaperone training

AME Partners Ltd to ensure that all chaperones provided are healthcare professionals, have up to date chaperone training certificates and have signed AME Partners Ltd confidentiality agreement.



Before conducting an intimate examination:

- Explain to the client why an examination is necessary and give the client an opportunity to ask questions
- Explain what the examination will involve in a way the client can understand, so that the client has a clear idea of what to expect.
- Give the client privacy to undress and dress, and keep them covered as much as possible to maintain their dignity; do not help the client to remove clothing unless they have asked you to, or you have checked with them that they want you to help.

During the examination,

Explain what you are going to do before you do it and, if this differs from what you have told the client before, explain why and seek the client's permission

- Stop the examination if the client asks you to
- Keep discussion relevant and don't make unnecessary personal comments.

Chaperones

- Chaperones should be healthcare qualified and preferably of the same gender as the client, however the latter cannot be guaranteed by AME Partners Ltd. It depends on the availability of chaperones.
- A relative or friend of the client is not an impartial observer and so would not usually be a suitable chaperone, but AME Partners Ltd will comply with a reasonable request to have such a person present, but not in a chaperone role.
- If either the aeromedical examiner or the client does not want the examination to go ahead without a chaperone present, the examination may need to be postponed to a later date when a suitable chaperone will be available.
- If a booked chaperone is not available for the medical examination, the client will be informed and the appointment rescheduled.
- The client has right to refuse a particular chaperone, in which case the medical examination will be postponed until an alternative chaperone can be arranged.
- The aeromedical examiner should record the presence of the chaperone during the examination and make a note of their identity.