

OHSU Student Health and Wellness Chaperone Policy FAQ

The OHSU Student Health and Wellness Center (SHW) is committed to providing a safe and respectful environment for our community. We recognize that sensitive examinations are times when this commitment is especially important. The goal of our chaperone policy is to ensure that ours is a culture of dignity.

What is a chaperone?

- A chaperone is a person who has specific training to support patients and health professionals during a medical examination or procedure.
- A chaperone is a health care professional or a trained unlicensed staff member. This may include medical assistants or other SHW staff members.

Why would we need a chaperone?

- A chaperone is provided to help protect and enhance the patient's comfort, safety, privacy, security, and dignity during sensitive examinations or procedures.
- A chaperone may assist the health professional during sensitive examinations or procedures.

When would we use a chaperone?

- We define a sensitive examination as a physical examination of body parts that are typically covered by undergarments including breasts, genitals, pubic and pelvic region, buttocks and anal/rectal area. We recognize that every person has a unique experience of their body and may define sensitive body parts differently. We encourage you to let us know if you have specific concerns or needs during your visit at SHW.

What can you expect with a chaperone?

- The chaperone will only be present during the sensitive parts of the procedure or medical examination or as the patient requests.
- It is vitally important to us that you feel comfortable with and supported by the chaperone. Sometimes chaperones will be automatically provided as part of your visit. Please let the rooming medical assistant know if you prefer a different arrangement. We will do our best to accommodate your request. If we cannot, we will work with you to find a mutually agreed upon alternative option.

What else can you expect?

- You will be provided privacy to undress and dress.
- You will be provided gowns, drapes, and shorts to adequately cover your body during your visit and will only uncover the parts of your body that are necessary to address your concern.
- We will listen to you when you have questions or concerns.

How do you report a concern?

If you would like to speak to someone in clinic right away, please let any SHW staff member know. You can call our main number 503-494-8665, option 1 if you prefer to make a report by phone or send an email to shw@ohsu.edu.