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Chaperone Policy

This policy is designed to protect both clients and EPIC directors/associates/employees from abuse or allegations of abuse and to assist clients to make an informed choice about their examinations and consultations. If a consultation is conducted at any point with the client alone then this must be explained clearly as to why this is felt necessary/appropriate and their consent must be obtained. For a young person under the age of 18 this must also be with their parent's/guardian's consent. Both should be clearly recorded in the client record.

Where a physical examination of the client is considered an essential part of the assessment this must be clearly explained to the client, and to the parent/guardian if the client is under 18. A professional and considerate manner must be adopted, the nature of the proposed examination must be clearly explained and the consent of the client, and parent/guardian if under 18, must be obtained and clearly documented in the client record.

Guidelines

Physical examinations must only be conducted in a clinic room with an appropriate examination couch. Always ensure that the client is provided with adequate privacy to undress and dress if this is required. Where possible parents/guardians should remain in the room and a portable examination screen can be used for privacy if needed. Where a client is seen alone a chaperone should be offered, this will be another EPIC clinician/employee. If the client declines the offer of a chaperone this should be clearly recorded in the client record. If a chaperone offer is accepted but there is no appropriate EPIC clinician/employee available the examination should be deferred to another day with no extra cost to the client.

Author	Publication date	Reviewed	Review date
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