

# Chaperone Policy

Dermatology for the Family has a policy of providing medical chaperones to provide a safe, comfortable environment for patients and our providers.

Our medical chaperone will act as a witness for our patient and our providers during a medical examination or procedure of the patient's "sensitive" areas. These procedures include:

- Full Body Skin Exams
- Examinations, treatments or procedures of or involving the external genitalia
- Examinations, treatments or procedures of the female patient's breast(s)
- Rectal examinations, treatments or procedures

Medical chaperones will also be available during any other exam, treatment or procedure at the patient's request. Dermatology for the Family providers may also request a chaperone during any exam, treatment or procedure. If the patient declines a chaperone in this situation, the Dermatology for the Family provider may decline to perform the examination, treatment or procedure.

The medical chaperone will be a Dermatology for the Family employee / staff member who will stand in the exam room where they can observe and assist as needed. While friends and/or family may be invited to stay at the patient's request, they will not be considered chaperones for patients **over age 13**. For patients **under 13**, a guardian may remain in the room and act as the chaperone. However, the patient or provider performing the exam, treatment or procedure may request a chaperone in addition to the guardian.

In emergency cases when a chaperone is required by the policy but is not immediately available, the provider should proceed with the exam, treatment or procedure and document the situation.