

BCOM Chaperone Policy

All patients, regardless of age, gender, ethnic background, culture, sexual orientation, or mental status have the right to have their privacy and dignity respected¹. Osteopathic Practice Standards mandate that all patients should be offered a chaperone prior to examination or treatment and define a chaperone as, “an adult who accompanies a patient during their consultation and/or treatment. This may be a relative or friend of the patient or a suitable person from the osteopath’s practice.”²

BCOM Clinic is a training clinic. The following sets out the agreed use of chaperones in BCOM Clinic.

1. All new patients are given a consent form on arrival which informs them of their rights to have a chaperone. If they are unable to provide one, BCOM will provide a chaperone of the same sex to act on their behalf.
2. If a chaperone has been requested by the patient and one is unavailable, the appointment will be postponed until such time as a chaperone can be made available.
3. When a patient brings a friend/family member to act as an informal chaperone, this will be noted in the patient notes.
4. If a student acts as a formal chaperone on request, this will be noted in the patient notes.
5. A chaperone is always required when:
 - a. There is examination or treatment of an intimate area
 - i. BCOM Clinic is a training clinic, and intimate examinations cannot be performed unless under the direct supervision of a tutor
 - b. The patient is a young adult (16 and 17 years of age) and unaccompanied by a parent or legal guardian
 - i. If a young adult does not consent to the presence of a chaperone, this must be noted in the notes with the patient’s signature.
 - c. The patient is an adult who lacks capacity

1 “Chaperoning: the role of the nurse and the rights of the patient”, Royal College of Nursing, 2006

2. Osteopathic Practice Standards, General Osteopathic Council, 2012