

**NEW ENGLAND STEM CELL INSTITUTE: Chaperone Policy****Release Date: 5-7-2020****Policy Effective Date: 06.26.2025**

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**Chaperones for Patients**

**Purpose of the Policy:** The providers and staff at New England Stem Cell Institute will respect the dignity of every patient and conduct each visit in a manner that provides a caring and comfortable environment.

**Scope of the Policy:** To address the utilization of chaperones while conducting a physical examination and/or providing care to patients to ensure a comfortable and respectful environment for each patient.

**Definitions:**

**Chaperone**—authorized healthcare provider, parent, legal guardian or patient advocate who is present during the examination.

**Clinician**—a person who specializes in treatment and provides care to the patient.

**Patient**—an individual receiving or registered to receive medical care or treatment.

**Procedure:**

1. New England Stem Cell institute will have a chaperone request sign posted in the waiting area and in each examination room.
2. The use of a chaperone is a mutual decision between the clinician and the patient.
3. If a patient requests a chaperone, a chaperone will *always* be provided.
4. A conversation will be initiated by the clinician regarding the need of a chaperone and this conversation *must* take place prior to the examination. The conversation *must* be documented in the patient's medical record along with the name of the person chosen to chaperone the examination.
5. Examinations that require the presence of a chaperone or a documented refusal by the patient include:
  - Examinations on pediatric, adolescents or young adult's patients that require the inspection or palpation of the anorectal or genital areas, and the female breast. (\*parent, legal guardian or patient advocate can serve as chaperone)

- Gynecology examinations and examination of female breast(s).
- If the patient or clinician is uncomfortable.

1. The clinician may request a chaperone in certain circumstances based on the patient's behaviors before or during the examination (i.e., anxiety, reluctance to complete examination, exhibiting mental health behaviors).
2. Chaperones for adults should be a health care professional.
3. All patient refusals, as well as the reasoning for the refusal of a chaperone during the examination or procedure, *must be documented* in the patient's medical record.
4. The clinician may postpone the examination if a chaperone is required and the patient refuses.

#### **CONTACT US:**

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