

# Medical Chaperones

## *Learn about our policy for patients 17 and younger*

At Vanderbilt Health, we're always working to improve our patient care. We've created our medical chaperone policy to support your child and their providers. It's not a response to any event at Vanderbilt Health.

### *Our policy for patients 17 and younger*

- For all sensitive exams and procedures, we provide a chaperone.
- For all other exams and procedures, we provide a chaperone if you or your child ask.

### *What is a medical chaperone?*

A medical chaperone is an adult who stays in the room with a patient and their provider during an exam or procedure. Their main role is to support your child and their provider during an exam or procedure. Some chaperones may also assist the provider.

### *What is a sensitive exam?*

#### *For children 10 and younger*

This is an exam or procedure that involves the genital, rectal, or pelvic areas. There are a few exceptions to this. Ask us if you have questions.

#### *For children 11 to 17*

This is an exam or procedure that involves the genital, rectal, female breast, or pelvic areas. There are a few exceptions to this. Ask us if you have questions.

### *Who can act as a medical chaperone?*

- Clinical staff members who have gone through special training.
- Parents, family members, and legal guardians of children younger than 10 if the child is having a non-sensitive exam or procedure.

### *Can I be the medical chaperone for my child?*

#### *If your child is 10 or younger*

- You (or another parent, guardian, or adult family member) can be the chaperone for non-sensitive exams and procedures only.
- If the exam or procedure involves the genital, rectal, or pelvic area, we'll provide the chaperone.

#### *If your child is 11 to 17*

You or another family member cannot be their chaperone for any exam or procedure, even those that aren't sensitive.

### *A medical chaperone needs special training*

Because our chaperones have been trained, they know exactly how to support your child and their provider during exams and procedures.

Even if you stay in the room, you still wouldn't count as your child's chaperone.

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*Will the medical chaperone be the gender that my child is most comfortable with?*

We'll always do our best. It depends on the staff we have available.

*What if I'm worried about the medical chaperone hearing details about my child?*

Like all our medical staff, our chaperones are trained to keep your child's information private. They will not share details about your child or their exam with anyone.

Before or after your exam or procedure, you and your child will also have the chance to talk with your child's provider in private.

*Can I decline a medical chaperone on my child's behalf?*

No. For children of all ages, you cannot decline the chaperone for any sensitive exam or procedure.

*What if my child is having a medical emergency and there's no chaperone?*

If your child needs emergency care, including a sensitive exam or procedure, we won't delay their care based on our chaperone policy.

*Can my child or I ask for a medical chaperone if one hasn't been provided for them?*

Yes. We'll provide chaperones for all sensitive exams. For any other exam or procedure, we'll provide a chaperone if you or your child ask.