

What to Expect During a Routine Sensitive Exam Frequently Asked Questions

We know some medical exams and procedures are more sensitive than others are. We want you to be comfortable during all exams and procedures. We have trained chaperones to help make sure sensitive exams and procedures are done in a safe, comfortable and professional way. If you ever feel uneasy or you need more information about what will happen during your exam, please ask us. We are here to help.

What is considered a “sensitive” exam or procedure?

Any physical exam of the male or female genitals or rectum or female breasts is considered “sensitive.” These include exams of:

- Female breasts • Pubic/groin region • Vulva and vagina • Penis and scrotum

What does the chaperone do?

The chaperone is a specially trained member of your care team. Their job is to ensure patient and provider comfort, safety, privacy, security and dignity during these exams or procedures. The chaperone will stand in a location where he or she can observe what is going on and assist as needed.

Can I request a chaperone for exams that are not sensitive in nature?

Yes. You can request a chaperone for any type of exam.

Can I decline to have a chaperone present during my exam or procedure?

Yes, you always have the right to decline a chaperone. The health care provider may also decide not to perform an exam or procedure unless a chaperone is present.

Can I request a chaperone of a specific gender?

Yes. If you prefer a chaperone of a specific gender, let us know. We will do our best to honor your request. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to the clinic manager.

For ALL sensitive exams, you should expect:

- An explanation of the exam, including why it is needed, what the provider will do, and what it may feel like.
- Privacy to undress. You should NOT be asked to undress in front of a provider or other staff member.
- You should be offered a covering (gown or sheet/drape) if your body is exposed.
- You have the right to refuse any portion of an exam or stop it at any time.