

Question: Is there any training for a chaperone?

Answer: I don't know that much "training" is required. You could create a policy, however, that includes some of the following:

Role and responsibilities:

A. Chaperone acts as a neutral observer/witness during exams

- **Supports both:**
 - **Patient dignity and comfort**
 - **Provider protection against allegations**

B. Privacy, confidentiality, and HIPAA

- **Maintain confidentiality of all patient information**
- **Understand limits of access and disclosure**
- **Protect patient dignity during sensitive exams**

C. Professional boundaries

- **Remain neutral, objective, and non-participatory**
- **Avoid conversation or behavior that could:**
 - **Influence the encounter**
 - **Appear biased or inappropriate**

D. Communication skills

- **Introduce themselves and explain their role**
- **Communicate respectfully with patients**
- **Recognize discomfort and respond appropriately**

E. Sensitive exam awareness

- **Understand:**
 - **Breast, genital, rectal exam context**
 - **Appropriate positioning and draping**
 - **Ensure patient is covered and comfortable**

F. Documentation requirements

- **How and when to document presence of a chaperone**
- **Recording patient acceptance or refusal**

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