

# CHAPERONE POLICY



Version	Date	Version Created By	Version Approved By	Comments
V1	Dec 2018	HR	TA	Initial Policy
V2	Jan 2019	HR	TA	Reviewed and edited

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## Reference

Chaperone and Related Issues – Chartered Society of Physiotherapy



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## 1. Policy Statement

Surrey Physio Group view the protection of patients and practitioners throughout the treatment process of the highest importance. The Chartered Society of Physiotherapists lay down guidelines to ensure the treatment of all, especially young persons.

*“Physiotherapists have a duty to respect the dignity and sensibilities of patients, as well as their own right to work in a safe environment. By its very nature, physiotherapy is a ‘touching’ profession often with patients in a state of undress.” Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.*

Surrey Physio Group require all Children 16 or under be supervised by an adult during examinations and treatment sessions. If a patient is over 16 they may request or be offered an informal Chaperone such as a friend or relative or a formal Chaperone such as a staff member. A Chaperone is someone who is an adult acting as an impartial third party. Should you require a formal Chaperone, it is helpful if you can request this at time of booking an appointment, in order for this to be arranged. However, patients can request a chaperone at ANY time before or during an appointment.

Patients are welcome to bring friends or relatives into the appointment if they would feel more comfortable.

Please be aware that for a full Physiotherapy examination it may be required to remove some items of clothing, therefore, you may feel more comfortable bringing a sleeveless top, sports bra, shorts or swim wear to put on for the treatment.

All patients will have access to a robe for undressing, if requested. All physiotherapists and osteopaths are required to undress their patients to the minimum level in order to examine or treat a particular body part, ensuring no more than necessary items are removed. In addition, if patients are required to undress they will have access to a screen or the physiotherapist will leave the room to provide the required level of privacy. Patients are encouraged at any point to request any level of privacy.

Patients are ultimately responsible for consenting verbally to examination and treatment, and this is noted in the treatment notes. The patient has the right to withdraw consent at any time.

For more information, see the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy’s guide on Chaperones:  
<https://www.csp.org.uk/publications/chaperoning-and-related-issues>