

## MIDDLEWOOD LEAFLET ABOUT CHAPERONES

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This Leaflet explains Middlewood's approach to using chaperones. For further information, please just contact a member of our staff.

### 1. WHAT IS A CHAPERONE?

A chaperone is an adult who can be present in a consultation with you, usually during an intimate examination.

We hope that the presence of a chaperone will provide support and reassurance to you during the examination. They will act as an impartial observer, so won't take an active role. The chaperone will introduce them self, and then stay in the consultation room. A common place for them to stand is inside the cubicle curtain with you at the head end of the couch. However, if you prefer them to stand somewhere else in the room, you can just let them know.

Unless you request otherwise, we will ask the chaperone to arrive at the start of the examination and leave at the end of it. This means that they will not be part of the rest of the consultation when your clinician is discussing your health with you.

### 2. WHO IS A CHAPERONE?

The chaperone will usually be a member of our reception or admin team. They have received special training for this role, and will be aware of the procedures that are involved in a routine examination. As with all of our employees, they are under a strict duty of confidentiality, and they will also have had a DBS check.

### 3. CAN I BRING A CHAPERONE?

The chaperone can't be one of your friends or relatives, because part of the chaperone's role is being a trained impartial observer. But, we're happy to consider any request that you make for someone of your choice to be present as well as the chaperone.

### 4. HOW CAN I REQUEST A CHAPERONE?

You can ask for a chaperone for your appointment at the point of booking it, on arrival, or when you are in the consulting room with the clinician. If there will be an intimate examination during the consultation, your clinician will ask if you would like a chaperone to be present.

In the unlikely event that no suitable chaperone is available, you will be offered a new appointment within a reasonable period of time. If any delay may be very detrimental, the clinician will explain this to you and will jointly agree with you how best to proceed.

### 5. WHAT IF I DON'T WANT A CHAPERONE?

A chaperone will only be present when you agree to it. If the clinician for your appointment feels that a chaperone is necessary in order for them to proceed, and you don't agree to a chaperone, then arrangements may be made for you to see another clinician.