Medical Chaperones for Crawford Memorial Hospital Patients

Purpose

Crawford Memorial Hospital provides medical chaperones to ensure a respectful, and dignified environment for all patients during sensitive exams or procedures and care, or anytime a patient request one.

Chaperones help:

- Support patient privacy, security, and dignity.
- Provide reassurance for patients who may feel anxious or uncomfortable.
- Promote a culture of professionalism and accountability for healthcare Practitioners

What is a chaperone?

A chaperone is a trained witness who may assist during a sensitive exam, procedure, or treatment – or at any time a patient request one.

Their presence protects both patients and Practitioners by maintaining a neutral, professional environment.

Who can serve as a chaperone?

- A trained CMH staff member.
- Family members and friends of adult patients cannot serve as chaperones but may be present if the patient requests it.
- CMH will try to provide a chaperone of the gender the patient prefers.

Role and responsibilities of a chaperone

Chaperones may:

- Offer emotional support and comfort.
- Provide gowns or sheets to maintain privacy.
- Help interpret instructions.
- Ensure ongoing patient consent during the exam or procedure.
- Stand in an unobtrusive location while observing and assisting as needed.

If a chaperone witnesses inappropriate or unacceptable behavior, they are required to report it immediately.

When is a chaperone present?

Chaperones are:

- Required for all sensitive exams or procedures (unless declined by the patient).
- Available upon request for any exam, treatment, or consultation.

If a patient requests a chaperone:

- They may ask in advance or during the visit.
- The Practitioner will not proceed until a chaperone is available.

Can a chaperone be declined?

Yes – adult patients (or parents of minors) may decline a chaperone which is noted in the medical record.

However, a Practitioner may choose not to perform the exam or procedure without a chaperone.

What is a sensitive exam or procedure?

A sensitive exam/procedure involves the breasts, genitalia, or rectum.