

MBChB Programme – Guidance for Medical Students on Being Asked to Act as a Chaperone

Recently updated national guidance has highlighted the importance of who can appropriately act as a chaperone during intimate examinations and makes clear that it is not appropriate for medical students to undertake this role.

Both [GMC](#) and [NHS England](#) guidance state that a chaperone should be an appropriately trained member of staff, whose role is to protect the patient's dignity and confidentiality, act as the patient's advocate, recognise and respond to signs of distress or discomfort, understand the procedure being undertaken, and know how and where to raise concerns about a clinician's behaviour if required.

Therefore, medical students should not act as chaperones during intimate examinations, and it is not appropriate for clinical staff to ask you to do so. This guidance will also be cascaded to clinical supervisors and their teams; however, if you are asked on placement to act as a chaperone, please explain politely that, as a medical student, this would not be appropriate in line with GMC and NHS England guidance.

If you are being asked to chaperone for clinical colleagues, please raise this with your clinical supervisor or your CEC Year Lead / Hospital Dean, as appropriate.