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Iechyd Cyhoeddus  
Cymru  
Public Health  
Wales

**Reference Number:** PHW88  
**Version Number:** 1  
**Date of next review:** June 2028

## CHAPERONE POLICY

### Policy Statement

Public Health Wales Staff (PHW) aims to ensure that a process is in place for the use of chaperones when carrying out intimate examinations. PHW recognises that it is important to ensure that intimate tests and examinations must be practiced in a safe, sensitive and respectful manner on every occasion and in line with legislation and best practice.

Public Health Wales aims to support the following delivered through the guidance set out within the Chaperone Procedure:

- To ensure that the service user's safety, privacy and dignity is protected during intimate examinations or procedures and delivery of intimate clinical care
- To minimise the risk of a Healthcare Professionals, this can be any staff member, actions being misinterpreted.
- To maintain safety, ensuring that correct processes and support is available whilst carrying out intimate, clinical examinations and interventions.
- To act as a safeguard for service users and staff against any unacceptable acts of behaviour during intimate tests and examinations.
- To recognise that the PHW Consent to Treatment Policy must be always adhered to.

This policy aligns with the following strategic priorities:

1. Delivering excellent public health services to protect the public and maximise population health outcomes.

The intended outcome of this policy is:

1. Compliance with legislation
2. To provide an adjunct to the consent policy and support its implementation.
3. To provide service users who undergo intimate examinations a safe, and comfortable environment that respects gender, cultural and personal preferences.
4. To protect both staff and service users.
5. To provide safe working practices to all staff who undertake the following procedures where physical examinations, particularly where there is removal of service user clothing or where intimate/invasive procedures are involved.

### Policy Commitment:

Public Health Wales recognises its duty to comply with legislative requirements and to comply with good practice guidelines as part of its commitment to deliver excellent public health services.

This policy outlines PHW's commitment to comply with existing legislative requirements to support children and adults at risk of harm or abuse, such as the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 1, the Mental Capacity Act 2, and the Mental Health Act 3.

It is committed to complement and not supersede existing guidance offered by regulatory or professional bodies.

### **Supporting Procedures and Written Control Documents**

**[All corporate policies and procedures are available on the Public Health Wales website](#)**

Both the policy and procedure will be underpinned by key legislature:

1. complement and not supersede existing legislative requirements to support children and adults at risk of harm or abuse, such as the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 1 2014, the Mental Capacity Act 2, and the Mental Health Act 3, 2005
2. complement and not supersede existing guidance offered by regulatory or professional bodies; and
3. These principles will be considered in conjunction with the Mental Capacity Act (2005), All Wales Consent to Examination or Treatment Policy and
4. Human Rights Act 1998
5. Equality Act 2010
6. General Medical Council, Intimate examinations and Chaperones (2024) and the Society of Radiographers, Intimate Examinations and Chaperone Policy, 2016.

Identify interdependencies with other policy/control documents.

1. PHW Chaperone procedure
2. PHW Consent to Examination or Treatment Policy
3. PHW Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Adults Policies and Procedures
4. PHW Putting things right policy
5. [Speaking Up Safely \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
6. [All-Wales Procedure for NHS Staff to raise concerns](#)

### **Scope**

This procedure is applicable to all PHW staff who undertake the following procedures:

- Interviewing service users on sensitive issues
- Physical examinations, particularly where there is removal of service users clothing or where intimate/invasive procedures are involved.

- All procedures where dignity may be compromised respecting the needs and preferences of individuals, such as cultural, ethnic, religious beliefs, gender identity and sexual orientation.
- Procedures where the service user does not have the capacity to decide for themselves.
- Procedures or examinations where the service user is a child under 16 years of age.

Outside the scope:

- Emergency situation or life-threatening condition.

<b>Equality and Health Impact Assessment</b>	An Equality and Health Impact Assessment has been completed and is available on the policy webpages.
<b>Approved by</b>	Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee
<b>Approval Date</b>	02/06/2025
<b>Review Date</b>	02/06/2028
<b>Date of Publication:</b>	19/06/2025
<b>Group with authority to approve supporting procedures</b>	Safeguarding Group
<b>Accountable Executive Director/Director</b>	Claire Birchall, Executive Director of Nursing, Quality and Integrated Governance
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### Disclaimer

**If the review date of this document has passed please ensure that the version you are using is the most up to date either by contacting the document author or [Board Business Unit](#)**

<b>Summary of reviews/amendments</b>				
<b>Version number</b>	<b>Date of Review</b>	<b>Date of Approval</b>	<b>Date published</b>	<b>Summary of Amendments</b>
1		02/06/25	19/06/25	New Policy

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