



## Chaperone Policy

Connecticut Orthopaedics's chaperone policy is to ensure patient comfort, promote patient safety, protect the integrity of the provider, and maintain appropriate professional boundaries during sensitive examinations or procedures conducted by orthopedic healthcare providers.

Efforts to provide a comfortable and considerate atmosphere for the patient and the physician are part of respecting patients' dignity. These efforts may include providing appropriate gowns, private facilities for undressing, sensitive use of draping, explaining various components of the physical examination. It also includes having a chaperone available.

Both the provider and the patient have the right to request a chaperone. This should be honored. If a patient refuses a chaperone, it is the provider's prerogative to postpone or cancel the appointment. Upon request a chaperone will be provided during the visit. The chaperone will be an authorized member of the healthcare team and will adhere to Connecticut Orthopaedics professional code of conduct. Chaperones are responsible for providing support to patients during examinations. Their primary role is to ensure patient comfort, assist the healthcare provider when necessary, and provide an additional level of safety and accountability. Efforts will be made to accommodate patient preferences regarding the gender of the chaperone, while considering the availability of chaperones. Chaperones are expected to maintain patient confidentiality, professionalism, and respect patient dignity throughout the process. The use of a chaperone during the examination will be documented in the patient's medical record. The provider should allow time for a private conversation with the patient after the examination without the chaperone.