



Third Person Presence During Consultation Procedure

Procedure Number
WCDHB-PC-0014

Version Nos:
3

1. Purpose

This Procedure outlines the process to be followed when a third person is to be present during a consultation between a consumer/patient and a West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB) health professional.

2. Application

This Procedure is to be followed by all WCDHB Health Professionals

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this Procedure:

Third Person is taken to mean:

- Patient's support person; or
- Health Professional's observer; or
- Trainee Health Professional; or
- Interpreter.

4. Responsibilities

For the purposes of this Procedure:

WCDHB Health Professionals are required to:

- ensure they abide by the requirements of this Procedure

5. Resources Required

This Procedure requires no specific resources.

6. Process

- 1.00 All patients have the right, if they wish, to have a support person present during a consultation with a WCDHB Health Professional, as long as the presence of this third person does not compromise the safety of any person or infringe the rights of another patient.
- 1.01 All WCDHB Health Professionals have a right to have a third person present during a consultation with a patient, provided the patient has consented to the presence of the third person.
- 1.02 It is mandatory for WCDHB Health Professionals to have a third person present when they are performing a physical or intimate examination of the patient, provided the patient has consented to the presence of the third person.
- 1.03 Where a WCDHB Health Professional wishes to have a third person present during a consultation, they are to inform the patient of the reason for having a third person present during the consultation, and then ask the patient (in private and not in the presence of the third person) if they consent to the third person being present during the consultation.



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- 1.04 In situations where the patient does not consent to the presence of a third person during the consultation, the WCDHB Health Professional can decide not to proceed with the consultation.
- 1.05 If a decision is made not to proceed with the consultation, the WCDHB Health Professional is to make arrangements to see the patient at another time, with a third person present who is acceptable to both the patient and WCDHB Health Professional.
- 1.06 If this is not possible, the WCDHB Health Professional is to refer the patient to another health professional.
- 1.07 All actions taken as per Sections 1.03 – 1.06 are to be documented as per the requirements of the WCDHB Clinical Documentation Procedure.

7. Precautions And Considerations

- ➔ All patients have the right, if they wish, to have a chaperon/support person present during a consultation with a WCDHB Health Professional
- ➔ All WCDHB Health Professionals have a right to have a third person present during a consultation with a patient, provided the patient has consented to the presence of the third person.
- ➔ It is mandatory for WCDHB Health Professionals to have a third person present when they are performing a physical or intimate examination of the patient, provided the patient has consented to the presence of the third person.

8. References

Code Of Health And Disability Services Consumers' Rights (1996)

Medical Council Of New Zealand Chaperone Statement (June 1993)

Medical Council Of New Zealand Draft Statement Keeping Clear Boundaries (November 2003)

9. Related Documents

WCDHB Clinical Documentation Procedure.

WCDHB Informed Consent Procedure

Revision History	Version:	4
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