



# Clinical Attendants

*A clinical attendant will be present during sensitive procedures & exams.*

At Cornell Health, our goal is to provide respectful care for our patients as well as support for our medical staff. One of the ways we achieve this goal is through our Clinical Attendant Policy, which establishes a consistent standard of practice for sensitive medical visits.

## What is a clinical attendant?

A “clinical attendant” is a second member of the medical team who will be present and available to assist patients and medical staff in completing sensitive exams and procedures. The attendant can also provide comfort and reassurance throughout the exam/procedure, which may include:

- recognizing when a patient may need clarification about what will be happening and why
- assuring patients are appropriately gowned or covered
- monitoring to assure a patient’s personal comfort during the exam/procedure
- assisting the clinician as needed

## What is a sensitive exam/procedure?

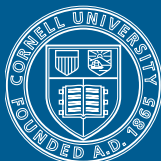
A sensitive exam or procedure includes the physical examination of—or a medical procedure involving—the genitalia, rectum, or breast/chest.

However, even if an exam or procedure is not considered sensitive by policy definition, patients are encouraged to talk with medical staff about other kinds of exams or procedures that may be sensitive

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for other reasons (e.g., personal experience, cultural, or religious values). A clinical attendant may be requested to be present during those appointments, too.

Whether or not a clinical attendant is present, patients have a right to ask questions, provide feedback, and/or request the kind of support they need to feel comfortable during a medical visit (e.g., a patient might ask to “pause a procedure,” for a moment in order to take a couple of deep breaths or ask a question).

Clinical attendants are present during the sensitive parts of the procedure/exam, or as requested by the patient or the medical staff member, and will sit or stand in a location that allows observation of the medical staff member’s clinical work.

## **Talk with us**

While this is standard practice at Cornell Health, if you have questions or concerns about this practice, please discuss it with our medical staff.

## **Questions & Comments**

- **In person:** You are always welcome to talk with your Primary Care Provider (PCP) or any member of the medical team, including nurses or administrative staff, about your questions and concerns.
- **Online:** If you would like to provide anonymous feedback, you may do so by completing the feedback form located in the footer of every page of our website (*health.cornell.edu*).
- **In writing:** Comment card stations are located in lobbies throughout Cornell Health.

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