Practice Chaperone Policy

At 2020Dentalcare, it is our policy that all dentists are routinely supported by a dental nurse to assist with treatment and to act as a chaperone.

* **Standard 6** of the GDC Standards for the Dental Team says: “You must be appropriately supported when treating patients”
* **6.2.2** clarifies this with: “You should work with another appropriately trained member of the dental team at all times when treating patients in the dental setting…”
* **6.2.6** says: “Medical emergencies can happen at any time. You must make sure that there is at least one other person available within the working environment to deal with medical emergencies when you are treating patients…”

There will be times when the nurse needs to leave the room for example to process/scan radiographs or to get extra equipment or materials.

These occasions should be minimised by planning ahead and ensuring that the surgery is fully stocked at the start of each session with all the equipment and materials likely to be needed for that clinic. A Day List can help with this planning.

If the chaperone does need to leave the room, he/she should still be on the premises and able to respond instantly if his/her assistance is required.

There may be occasions, in exceptional circumstances, where having a chaperone is not possible. For example:

* When providing out of hours emergency care
* When providing treatment as part of a public health programme such as fluoride varnish application
* When a team member is absent in unforeseen or unavoidable circumstances, and despite reasonable efforts, temporary cover has not been possible

In these circumstances, we will only continue to provide treatment if:

* The clinician judges that it is not reasonable to delay treatment
* The circumstances have been explained to the patient and they have agreed to proceed
* Another team member is aware what is being done and where it is being done