



*Ambulatory Clinic Policy and Procedure*

Title: <b>PERSONS ACCOMPANYING PATIENTS AND RIGHT TO A CHAPERONE</b>	Policy Number: <b>EP 6.2</b>
Regulation Reference: Joint Commission RI.01.01.01	Effective Date: <b>04/2023</b>

**Policy Statement:**

It is the policy of the Texas Tech Physicians of El Paso (TTP-EP) to protect the privacy of patient health care information from persons who may not be appropriate to receive it, and to respect the dignity of its patients.

**Scope and Distribution:**

This policy applies and will be distributed to all TTP-EP ambulatory clinics.

**Procedure:**

- 1- Patients have the right to have family members or significant others with them at the time of health care visits. Physicians and Health Care Providers need to understand who is accompanying a patient to their clinic visit and what their relationship is to the patient.
- 2- Not all persons accompanying a patient are appropriate to be present during patient clinic visits with the Physician or Health Care Provider. If it is determined by the Physician or Health Care Provider that the accompanying person is not appropriate, that person will be asked to leave the room. If the accompanying person leaves the room the exam may proceed; but if the accompanying person does not wish to leave the room the Physician or Health Care Provider may stop the visit and advise the patient of their option to reschedule the appointment at a later date without the accompanying person.
- 3- All patients, regardless of the nature of the visit, have the right to have a chaperone present for any part of or all of their visit.
- 4- If a patient or healthcare provider, requests to have a chaperone present during the visit this request must be honored.
- 5- The chaperone will be a member of the clinic staff of the same gender of the patient.

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