
Intimate examinations

The GMC receives complaints each year from patients who feel that doctors have behaved improperly or roughly during intimate examinations. When conducting such examinations you should:

- a. Explain to the patient that an intimate examination needs to be done and why.
- b. Explain what the examination will involve.
- c. Obtain the patient's permission.
- d. Whenever possible, offer a chaperon or invite the patient to bring a relative or friend.
- e. Give the patient privacy to undress and dress.
- f. Keep discussion relevant and avoid unnecessary personal comments.
- g. Encourage questions and discussion.

November 1996