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.

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