

Chaperone Policy

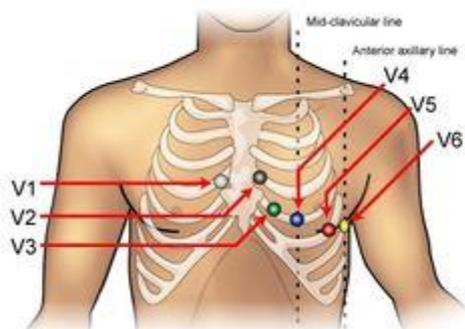
It is important to maintain the dignity of all patients being examined and this is potentially more difficult when the person being examined is of the opposite gender of the examining doctor.

Your examiner is a male doctor who is bound by the principles set out in the General Medical Council's guidance "Maintaining Boundaries". ([download by clicking here](#))

The medical examination required by the CAA includes several tests which would not normally be considered in any way intimate such as testing eyesight and hearing.

Other parts of the examination do require a more close physical examination. It is required to listen to the heart and lungs with a stethoscope which should be placed directly onto bare skin. It also requires palpation of the abdomen (pressing on the bare skin surface of the tummy to feel for the organs inside) Finally it involves feeling for the pulses, two of which are located right at the top of the front of the leg just below the belt line.

If suitably loose fitting clothes are worn then it isn't necessary to fully undress to perform a competent examination. For example the stethoscope can be introduced between clothes and skin without the need to remove all garments worn or to expose the chest.



For some patients (usually pilots and cabin crew over the age of 40 and **from 1st Feb 2019 ALL class 2 pilot applicants for their initial medical regardless of age**) an ECG is required and this does require removing clothing from the chest to allow electrodes to be connected. For female patients this doesn't require removal of the bra but the other clothing must be removed in order to connect the chest electrodes as shown in the above picture.

A chaperone is not routinely available for all appointments but this can be arranged if requested in advance at the time of booking. This chaperone will normally be the wife of the examining doctor.

A relative or friend of the patient is not an impartial observer and so would not usually be a suitable chaperone, but we are happy to comply with a reasonable request to have such a person present as well as a chaperone if the patient wishes it.