BACKGROUND

Many new learners (students, interns, new PA graduates, etc.) are not experienced or comfortable performing sensitive physical exams. Patients may also feel discomfort or embarrassment with these exams. Repeated examinations worsens the patient experience. In order to provide the best patient experience, teaching and accurate data collection, the Department of Emergency Medicine is adopting this new guideline.

GUIDELINE

- Sensitive physical exams done by new learners and all students in the ED should be supervised by attending physicians or senior APPs.
- New learners include PGY I EM residents, all off service or visiting residents, all students, and APPs during initial 6 months of employment.
- Sensitive exams are those of the rectum, genitals, and breasts.
- Any sensitive exam that has a high likelihood of needing to be repeated by a specialist should be supervised by attendings or providers from a specialty service, even if performed by an upper level resident.
- In addition to attending supervision, a chaperone should be used who is a member of the hospital staff. This chaperone should be distinct from the interpreter if an interpreter is being used. The chaperone may be the RN or ED Tech caring for that patient.