Patient Guide to Sensitive Exams at UHS

We understand that certain exams are more sensitive than others. We want to ensure you feel safe and comfortable at your visit!

What is a sensitive exam?
A sensitive exam or procedure is one that involves a physical examination of genitalia, rectum, or breast, whether clothed or unclothed. However, we respect each individual’s interpretation of what is a sensitive exam.

Who else will be in the room during a sensitive exam or procedure?
Along with the clinician performing your exam, a patient attendant will also be present. A patient attendant is:

- A trained member of the UHS Medical Team
- There to support both the clinician and the patient and witness the clinical interaction in an objective, non-judgmental manner.
- In the room for the entirety of the exam.
- Automatically assigned to be present during the exam.
- Mandated by the UC Office of the President and required at all UC Medical Facilities, including Student Health Centers.

Can I request a patient attendant of a specific gender identity?
Yes. Please tell your rooming Medical Assistant and we will do our best to accommodate you. You have the right to reschedule your exam free of charge if we are unable to accommodate your request.

What if I don’t want a patient attendant present at my exam?
UHS follows an opt-out approach to providing patient attendants. We will provide an attendant for sensitive exams unless you state otherwise. You must actively decline to have an attendant in the room for sensitive exams by telling your rooming Medical Assistant before the exam.

Note: You are entitled to have a patient attendant present for any exam!