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### Another pair of eyes in the room: do patients want a chaperone for intimate examinations?

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## Another pair of eyes in the room: do patients want a chaperone for intimate examinations?

### Abstract

Abstract of a paper that was presented at 2014 Primary Health Care Research Conference, Canberra, Australia, 23-25 July.

### Disciplines

Medicine and Health Sciences | Social and Behavioral Sciences

### Publication Details

Stanford, L., Bonney, A., Ivers, R. & Dijkmans-Hadley, B. (2014). Another pair of eyes in the room: do patients want a chaperone for intimate examinations?. 2014 Primary Health Care Research Conference: Program & Abstracts (pp. 1-1). Australia: Primary Health Care Research and Information Service.



## 2014 PHC Research Conference

### 2014 PHC Research Conference: Paper abstract

#### Another pair of eyes in the room: do patients want a chaperone for intimate examinations?

##### Author(s)

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##### Organisation

University of Wollongong, Illawarra and Southern Practice Research Network

##### Aims & rationale/Objectives

Intimate physical examinations are common in general practice. Major Australian professional indemnity insurers and recent Australian Medical Board Sexual Boundaries Guidelines suggest that doctors should offer a chaperone for intimate examinations. We present the first study investigating Australian patient attitudes toward chaperone use in General Practice.

##### Methods

Thirteen randomly selected general practices each invited 30 female and 30 male adult patients to complete a questionnaire. The instrument covered a range of intimate examination types; therefore separate male and female questionnaires were used. The data collection tools were informed by a literature review and data were analysed using Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test and cluster-adjusted regression.

##### Principal findings

The response rate was 94% (n=732; 51% female). The proportion of patients wanting a chaperone was similar across examination types and patient gender; 31.5% for Pap or vaginal examination; 30.4% for breast examination; 33% for female ano-rectal examination; 24.5% for male genital examination; 27.1% for male ano-rectal examination. Both men and women were significantly more likely to want a chaperone with their usual GP compared with a GP they did not know well for all examination types (p<0.05). The proportion of patients who preferred that a chaperone remain outside the curtain was 41.4%; 13.3% inside the curtain; 45.3% had no preference.

##### Implications

This data is important to inform practice policy, GP training and potential future policy regarding chaperone use in Australia. Some of these findings may appear counterintuitive to GPs, and further research to understand them is warranted.

##### Presentation type

Paper

##### Session theme

Perceptions and practices in women's health

##### Webcast



##### Session details

11:45am Thu 24 July, Torrens Room

##### Citation

Stanford L, Bonney A, Ivers R, Dijkmans-Hadley B. (2014). Another pair of eyes in the room: do patients want a chaperone for intimate examinations?. In: 2014 Primary Health Care Research Conference: Program & Abstracts. Primary Health Care Research and Information Service, Australia. [phcris.org.au/conference/abstract/7922](http://phcris.org.au/conference/abstract/7922)

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 2014 PHC Research Conference, University of Wollongong, Illawarra and Southern Practice Research Network.

 Presentation available

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