A NOTE TO PATIENTS AND FAMILIES
ABOUT CARING AND TRUST AT CHOP.

At Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, trust is the foundation of our relationship with you, our patients and families. As clinicians, we take a solemn oath to heal, to provide comfort, and never to do harm.

Recent news of individuals who abuse their professional oath has caused alarm throughout our profession and among patient families. We understand that, even here at CHOP, individual patients or their families may feel anxious at the prospect of having a physical exam.

As part of our ongoing partnership with patients and families, we wanted to share some information about physical exams that we hope will be reassuring to you. With every encounter in the CHOP Care Network — whether it is an exam, a procedure or an intimate discussion about your health or your child's health — we have an obligation to reinforce the trust you place in us.

Here are some ways we can partner during your visit:

• Expectations during a physical exam
  – During an exam it is not uncommon for a healthcare provider to perform a sensitive area examination, which may include an examination of the breasts, genitals, anus and/or rectum.
  – A healthcare provider will only perform sensitive area exams when medically necessary.
  – In general, for children school age and older, the provider will wear gloves during a sensitive area exam.
  – During the portion of an examination involving sensitive areas, you or your healthcare provider may request the presence of a chaperone. A chaperone is a person familiar with the basics of physical exams. They are there to provide support to the patient and provide discreet observation of the exam.

• Patient privacy and respect
  – Your healthcare provider will always treat you and your child with the utmost dignity and respect.
  – Before certain exams, a patient may be asked to wear a gown and/or draping to provide sufficient coverage of exposed areas. In these situations, the patient will have privacy when they are dressing and undressing.

• Communication
  – During an exam, you can expect a healthcare provider to let you know what they are going to do and why. For example, “I’m going to need to examine your private area to make sure everything is healthy.”
  – Additionally, your healthcare provider will confirm you are comfortable with proceeding before performing a sensitive area exam.
  – While your provider is an expert on healthcare, you are the expert on your or your child’s well-being. We encourage you, your trusted family member or friend or parents to ask questions and share any concerns you may have, at any time before, during, and after the exam.

We are here to help you and to listen to you. Please feel free to talk with your care team if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for entrusting us with your care or the care of your child.