PROPOSAL: Western Michigan University Medical Chaperone Policy (Policy No. 7-01)

Background

With the ever-increasing scrutiny under which universities have been placed regarding their treatment of athletes, patients, and students, the University recognized a need for a University-wide, formal policy addressing the presence of chaperones in medical examinations. In response, the Sindecuse Health Center, the Unified Clinics, the Department of Athletics, and the Office of General Counsel drafted a Medical Chaperone Policy. This Policy is based upon the AMA Code of Ethics as well as best practices developed by other prominent universities.

The Medical Chaperone Policy sets forth WMU’s expectation that trained health professionals be present as chaperones during clinical examinations. Chaperones are optional for non-Sensitive Examinations, but are required for Sensitive Examinations. The health-care provider must document any refusal by the patient to have a chaperone. Refusal to have a chaperone present may result in transfer of care in non-emergency situations.

We believe this Policy communicates the University’s commitment to providing a safe and healthy environment for everyone on WMU’s campus.

In accordance with the University’s Policy Review and Development Policy, it was submitted to the University Policy Committee for review.

Recommended Action

The Sindecuse Health Center, the Unified Clinics, the Department of Athletics, and the Office of the General Counsel recommend the Board of Trustees approve the Western Michigan University Medical Chaperone Policy.