

Can you send me the safeguarding policies the health board currently uses for when a patient is left alone with a member of staff, particularly a mental health clinician in the context of outpatient therapy.

All Health Board staff are governed by the [Wales Safeguarding Procedures](#). There is no specific safeguarding policy with regard to patient appointments being arranged on a 1:1 basis in an out-patient environment. There is chaperoning guidance for some circumstances, for example in gynaecology where intimate procedures might be performed.

In Mental Health services, as in other areas of healthcare, most appointments would be on a 1:1 basis unless otherwise specified or requested by either the patient or clinician. It is important that a patient feels free to speak with the clinician and this may be impeded by the presence of other people.

Examples of scenarios where another person would be involved are where a patient requests a family member to join an appointment or where there are known risks to a clinician when meeting a person on a 1:1 basis.