Dear all,

Updated SG guidance on accompanying patients to outpatient and primary care appointments has been published today ([COVID-19 Outpatient and Primary Care Consultation Principles](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-outpatient-and-primary-care-consultations---principles/)). The update intends to make clear who can be accompanied to appointments:

**Physical distancing**

In general, patients should attend on their own. However, if thought essential, one dedicated person can attend with a patient. Examples of situations where this might be important include, but are not restricted to:

·       when a person may have difficulty understanding what treatment or course of action a clinician is discussing

·       where a person has dementia, a learning disability or autism

·       where a person is receiving bad news or information that is potentially life-changing

·       where a person is receiving a cancer diagnosis or discussing cancer treatment options

·       when a pregnant woman attends an appointment in any setting including an obstetric ultrasound (this would be a birth partner in most instances)

·       where a person is distressed or stressed

In addition, consideration should also be given as to whether a family member or supporting person can attend a consultation virtually, for example, via an electronic platform or by phone, if a relative or friend cannot attend in person. There may also be occasions where more than one accompanying person is required e.g. translator, mobility support.

Kind regards

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