

Information for patients

A guide to Medical Photography



Medical Illustration

What is medical photography?

Medical photography is a service provided by the hospital's Medical Illustration (MI) department. It involves taking pictures or videos of your condition (health issue). It helps our medical staff learn more about the care they're giving you.

Why are medical photos important?

Your doctor may require medical photos of you. This can help to track visual changes with your health problem. Also, plan treatments like surgery, or compare with past photos. With your permission, we may use your photos for teaching or publishing.

Medical photos help:

- Find out more about your health problem
- Check on your health problem over time
- Plan and carry out treatments
- Support medical research and teaching

How and where are medical photographs taken?

Your doctor will explain why they need photos of you and ask your permission. Here's how it works:

In the studio

We take medical photos in areas around the hospital. For outpatients, MI staff may take your photos in the studio. You can bring a family member or friend with you. Staff of the same sex as you may be able take your photos. A chaperone can be present.

We will ask for your consent form. Also, confirm your details and explain the different views needed for the photos. The appointment should take about 15 minutes. You may need to remove some clothing and other items. The studio uses flash lighting.

On the ward

If you're an inpatient, we will visit you on the ward. We will look at the information on your consent form and confirm your details. We may take photos of you in your hospital bed. If so, staff will draw the curtains around your bed area for privacy. A nurse or another member of the team will be there to help you.

In surgery

Sometimes, your doctor might need photos taken during surgery for teaching purposes. If this happens, we will ask your permission once you're awake. If you don't want to give permission we will remove the photos.

What is the consent process for medical photos?

Before we take your photos we will ask your permission. There are three types of consent:

Type A – Record Only: We take photos for your patient record and for use by your medical team.

Type B – Record & Teaching: We take photos for your patient record and for use by your medical team. Also, for teaching staff and other patients.

Type C – Record, Teaching & Publication: We take photos for your patient record and for use by your medical team. Also, for teaching staff and patients and publishing in a medical book or journal.

Can I change my mind later?

Yes, you can change your consent type. Talk to your doctor or a member of the medical team.

Who owns the photographs?

The hospital owns all photos taken by MI. You may want copies of your photos. You will need to fill out a form.

Where are the photographs stored?

We store your patient photos on a secure image server. We also add them to your patient record with restricted access for medical staff.

If you require a special edition of this leaflet

This leaflet is available in large print. Arrangements can also be made on request for it to be explained in your preferred language. Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) email: rjah.pals.office@nhs.net

Feedback

Tell us what you think of our patient information leaflet.
Please send your comments to the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) email: rjah.pals.office@nhs.net

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