

Patient information - Medical photography

The Princess Alexandra Hospital

Introduction

We hope this guide will answer your questions about the medical photography procedure.

Please contact the team if you require further information via the details at the end of this leaflet.

What is a medical photograph?

A medical photograph is a recording of your illness by use of a digital camera or digital device. It does not involve any X-rays, but may use electronic flash.

The flash is not harmful in any way and it is safe to use even when pregnant. It is no different to the flash on your own camera.

Why do I need to have photographs taken?

This service captures a high resolution photographic record of any visual signs of your condition, the stages of your treatment and progress.

- Your doctor will explain why the photographs are needed and, after all of your questions have been answered, you will be asked for your verbal consent.
- All photographs are confidential, part of your medical records, and will only be seen by appropriate healthcare professionals.

Depending upon your wishes, your photographs can be used for one or more of the following purposes:

- for medical records only
- anonymised for teaching or presentation (for student doctors, GPs and other health professionals)
- for publication (in this instance further permission must be sought by the clinician from you.
The clinician must get this permission by completing the PAHT online patient photography consent form and specifically name the publication that it will appear in).
- your doctor may use the photographs to discuss the management of your condition with other healthcare professionals e.g. dietitians and physiotherapists.

Note: All patient medical photographs are covered by the Authorised Photography and Video Recordings of Patients Policy.

If after being photographed you wish to retract your permission, you may do so. However, if you have consented to publication in an electronic form i.e. as part of a website it is unlikely that it will be possible to retract the images.

How will I be photographed?

You will report to the ground floor reception desk at the Eye Unit (building 8).

Medical photography will take place in the privacy of the photography room. If you are not able to come to the Eye Unit, the photographer may visit you on the ward or in clinic. The photographer will always have relevant identification and they will explain to you what is required.

If you are unsure what is asked of you, the photographer will be happy to demonstrate. To obtain good, clear photographs we may ask you to remove relevant items of clothing, jewellery or make-up.

How long will I have to wait?

You will usually be seen soon after you have entered the Eye Unit and booked in at reception. Sometimes you may have to wait if the photographer is busy attending to another patient.

Who will photograph me?

You will be photographed by a qualified photographer who has been specially trained in medical photography. The photographer usually works alone, however, if you would like a chaperone one can be requested.

Our aim

We understand that you may feel apprehensive, but our aim is to make you feel as comfortable as possible. We will use our professional skills, technical expertise and regard for discretion and confidentiality to guide you through your photographic session.

Can I refuse to be photographed?

Yes, you can refuse photography at any stage. Refusal will usually not affect your treatment, but there are some exceptions. Please speak to your referring clinician for more information.

Contacting the team

If you have any further questions, please call the medical photographer on **01279 978641**, Monday-Thursday, 8am-4pm.

There is an answerphone available outside of these hours. Please leave a message and a member of the team will contact you.

Your feedback matters

If you would like to give feedback on your care, please contact our patient experience team on paht.pals@nhs.net or **01279 827211**.

Please contact the communications team on paht.communications@nhs.net if you would like this leaflet in another language or format.