

Patient Information on Clinical Photography

What is Clinical Photography?

We are a department within University Hospitals Birmingham which employs clinical photographers to produce photographic images for the Trust. The images that we create can be used for the purposes of teaching, research, publication or for the patients' healthcare records.

Clinical photographers are degree-qualified photographers who specialise in medicine and have completed further training over and above their initial qualification. They are required to learn anatomy and physiology, clinical terminology and the different photographic and lighting techniques required for accurately recording clinical conditions.

All Clinical Photographers are registered with the AHCS (Academy for Healthcare Science).

Why am I here?

You may have been asked by your consultant, or one of their team, to come and have a photograph taken. This is a normal part of many patients' treatment pathways.

Generally, this is required as the consultant needs to have photographs so that there is a record of your condition at a particular stage of treatment, or to help make a diagnosis or treatment recommendation. We also take photographs for solicitors, which are sometimes used in legal proceedings.

Will it take long?

The length of required time to take your photographs will depend on what photographs we have been asked to take.

What will happen while I am here?

Your photographs may be taken in our photographic studio, on a ward during an inpatient stay, in theatres or in an outpatient clinic room. The photographer will introduce themselves and explain what photographs the clinician needs and how they will be taken.

You will be asked to remove any jewellery or makeup where necessary. You may also be asked to remove articles of clothing depending on what needs to be photographed. We try to keep this to a minimum, but it is important for your clinical condition to be recorded as accurately as possible whilst minimising areas of distraction, such as clothes or jewellery.

If you are required to remove your clothing, we will try our best to ensure a photographer of your preferred gender takes the photographs. You may be offered different options if your preferred gender of photographer is not available. This will include use of a chaperone or re-booking your appointment at another time. Once completed, the photographs will go into your electronic healthcare record.

Do I need to give permission for photographs?

Yes, we require your informed consent to take any photographs. As with any treatment or procedure performed on you, your doctor or healthcare professional should discuss this with you and ask for your consent to continue, which will be documented. The clinician should have explained exactly what the photographs will be used for and who is likely to see them.

Information for Patients

There are three levels of consent which limits the usage of each image (see consent form for details). You may be able to withdraw your consent by contacting the Medical Illustration department, however images which have been used for clinical decisions, diagnosis or treatment cannot be removed from your healthcare record. Consent can be withdrawn when given for additional purposes outside of clinical treatment, however photographs that have previously been authorised for publication may not be able to be withdrawn if they are already in the public domain.

Can I have copies of the photographs?

Yes

Requests can be made by emailing:

SubjectAccessTeam@uhb.nhs.uk

Or in writing to:

Subject Access Team

Lincoln House Basement

Birmingham Heartlands Hospital

Bordesley Green East

Birmingham, B9 5SS

Tel: **0121 424 2286**

You will need to provide two forms of ID with your request. Details of accepted forms of ID can be obtained from the Subject Access Team.

Feedback

We hope that your visit has been a positive one and welcome any comments or suggestions that may improve our service to you in the future. You can approach a member of clinical photography staff or if you prefer you can contact the departmental manager at the following:

Medical Illustration Services Manager,

Department of Medical Illustration, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham

Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2GW

Tel: **0121 371 2460**

Email: clinicalphotography@uhb.nhs.uk

Clinical Photography, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham

Level 0, Mindelsohn Way, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2GW

Telephone: 0121 371 2460 / Internal: 12460

Clinical Photography/Medical Illustration (for patients seen at Heartlands, Solihull or Good Hope)

Level -1, Education Centre, Heartlands Hospital, Bordesley Green E, Birmingham B9 5SS

Telephone: 0121 424 3435 / Internal 43435



<https://www.uhb.nhs.uk/services/clinical-photography/>

If you require this information in another format, such as a different language, large print, braille or audio version please ask a member of staff or email interpreting.service@uhb.nhs.uk.