

## Medical Photography

# Medical photography: Information for patients

### What is Medical Photography?

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) is a teaching hospital with a rapidly growing reputation as a world class research centre. The Medical Photography Department specialises in photographing patients to produce accurate photographs that show medical conditions clearly. All of our photographers are fully qualified medical photographers.

### Where is the Medical Photography Department's Studio?

The Medical Photography Department is located on the Ground Floor of the Central Section of University Hospital, near main Outpatients and next door to the Dermatology Department.

### Why have we asked to take a photograph of you?

Photographs are a good way of showing a medical condition and making a permanent record for your clinical notes, whether before, during or after treatment. They enable clinical staff to make assessments of your treatment progress, by comparing your condition with your previous photographs. Many photographs taken by Medical Photography are also used for teaching doctors, nurses and other medical professionals. Sometimes, with your permission, images can be published in a medical book or journal.



### Who wants the photographs?

The photographs are taken at your consultant's request. The consultant will explain to you the reason for the request and ask you to sign a consent form to show that you agree to the photographs being taken and used.

### More about consent

UHCW has a strict policy on clinical photography, to ensure that we have your agreement before any photographs are taken of you and that they are only used in ways to which you agree.

There are three levels of consent:

- **Record only** means that the photographs will be kept in your clinical records and may only be used by clinical staff involved with your treatment or clinical assessment.
- **Teaching** means that your photographs may be used for teaching trainee doctors and other medical staff.
- **Publication consent** - your doctor might also ask you whether we can use the photographs for another 'specified purpose'. This might, for example, be publication in a book or medical journal. In this case you should know the exact publication in which your picture(s) will be used. Often your doctor will not know until some time later that a photograph is needed for a publication, so in these cases he or she will contact you to ask for your permission.

### What if I change my mind later?

If you want to change the consent you have given at any time, please contact the Medical Photography Department and your records will be amended according to your wishes. You might also wish to discuss the use of your photographs with your consultant.

### Who owns the photographs?

UHCW owns the copyright to all the photographs taken by Medical Photography and this copyright is stated on every photograph. It is illegal for any unauthorised person to make copies of your photographs.

### **What will the photographer ask me to do?**

#### **In the studio**

The photographer will ask for your consent form and double check that you have signed it. You will then be invited into the studio where the photographer will explain what photographs they will be taking of you. Depending on which parts of your body we are photographing, you may be asked to remove jewellery or make-up and some clothing. The photographer will explain which aspects of your condition we want to photograph and show you how you will need to sit or stand in order to help produce anatomically correct medical records. We use flash lighting, which can be quite bright as the photograph is taken, so be careful not to look directly at the lights.

We sometimes use mirrors and retractors to see into the mouth and might need to use hair bands or hair grips to keep the hair away from your face. If you feel uncomfortable at any point, please tell the photographer.

Once the photographs have been taken, you are then free to go and the images will be uploaded for your consultant to view.

#### **On the ward**

If you are unable to come to the studio, a photographer will come to visit you on the ward at an agreed time. The photographer will check that you have signed the consent form and, as in the studio, you may be asked to remove jewellery and/or some clothing.

### **Where do the photographs go?**

Photographs taken by Medical Photography are uploaded to the Medical Imaging Management database on the hospital's secure intranet. Access to the system requires the user to have a username and password and is restricted to medical staff that have legitimate reason to look at your notes.

Thank you for your time in attending for photography and please feel free to contact the department if you have any concerns, or if you require any further information.

## Patient Information

### Contact Details

Medical Photography  
University Hospital  
Clifford Bridge Road  
Walsgrave  
Coventry  
CV2 2DX

Telephone: 024 7696 6310

Ext: 26310

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 6310 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

#### Document History

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