

Medical Photography

Your questions answered

This leaflet aims to answer some of the more common questions about Medical Photography. We thank you for your co-operation; if you have any further questions, please ask the Medical Photographer.

What do medical photographers do?

Medical photographers provide a service for doctors and other healthcare professionals who require illustrations of all kinds for use in patient care, teaching and occasionally publication in medical books or journals.

Why do I need to be photographed?

There are a number of reasons; the most common is that your photographs will be used to provide an important record for your medical notes so that the doctors and other staff responsible for your care can monitor your treatment.

With your consent they may also be used for teaching doctors and other healthcare professionals.

How will I be photographed?

Medical photography usually takes place in the privacy of the department's purpose built studio, where the procedure will be explained to you in advance.

To obtain the best photographs, you may be asked to remove certain items of clothing and jewellery. Occasionally make-up will need to be removed. If you are required to remove any

clothing, the medical photographer will complete the photographs in as little time as possible to cause the least embarrassment.

There are changing facilities available, with hair bands and dressing gowns.

Who will be taking my photograph?

You will be photographed by a professionally qualified photographer who has undertaken nationally recognised training in clinical photography.

Can I have a chaperone?

The photographer may arrange to have a chaperone present. If there is not one present when you arrive and you feel you would like a chaperone, do not feel embarrassed, just ask and a same sex chaperone will be made available.

How long will it take?

Each photographic session is different, but on average it will take about 20 minutes.

Who will see the photographs?

Your photographs are confidential documents and will only be viewed by staff directly involved with your health care. If they are used for teaching, they will only be seen by doctors, other healthcare professionals and those training in the healthcare field.

Occasionally, photographs are used in medical publications, but this will not happen without your specific agreement.

Where will my photos be kept?

Your photographs will be included with your medical records and stored in accordance with the RD&E Medical Records policy. All digital picture files will be stored on the RD&E central secure server.

Do I have a choice?

Yes you do; the doctor who asked you to come to the department will have sought your permission and asked you to sign a consent form so that the photographs can be taken.

Even after the photographs have been taken, you may wish to change your mind and withdraw your consent and the images will be erased. You can do this by simply contacting the Medical Photography Department.

How to find us

We are situated within the main building of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital (Wonford), Barrack Road, Exeter.

The Department can be found on Level 1, Area N, room N187.

Contact us

We can be contacted, either by post, telephone or e-mail:

Medical Photography Department

Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital (Wonford)
Barrack Road, Exeter EX2 5DW

Tel: 01392 403974

E-mail: rde-tr.MedicalPhotography@nhs.net

How to get to the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital at Wonford

Please refer to the enclosed "Welcome to the Medical Imaging Department" leaflet or use the Trusts website for the latest information:
www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/patients/where

Cancelling your appointment

If you are unable to attend your appointment, we would be grateful if you could contact us on **01392 403974** as soon as possible. We can then offer your original appointment to another patient. A further date and time will then be arranged for you.

Please note: If you have had D&V (diarrhoea and vomiting) you will need to contact us to rebook your appointment unless you have been clear for the past 48 hours.

Further information

If you have any concerns at all regarding your visit to the Medical Photography Department, please contact the department using one of the methods mentioned above.

The Trust cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information given if the leaflet is not used by RD&E staff undertaking procedures at the RD&E hospitals.

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