

## What is clinical photography?

Clinical photography is used to visually record a patient's medical condition to form part of the patient's notes.

Clinical photographs are taken to help doctors and other health professionals to monitor clinical conditions. They are often used as part of the planning process alongside other tests such as x-rays, scans and blood tests.

Many photographs taken by clinical photographers may also be used for teaching doctors, nurses and other medical professionals. Sometimes, with your permission, photographs will be published in a medical book or journal.

## Who are clinical photographers?

A Clinical Photographer is a specialised photographer trained to record a wide variety of medical conditions from routine (*for example pre and post – operative photographs*) to highly complex photography (*for example Ultra Violet (UV) & 3D photographs*).

For more information about clinical photographers, go to the Institute of Medical Illustrators' website: [www.imi.org.uk](http://www.imi.org.uk)

## What to expect during your visit to the Medical Photography and Illustration Department

On arrival at the department you will be booked in and your personal details will be checked.

You will then be invited into the studio where the clinical photographer will explain what photographs need to be taken.

Depending on which part of the body is going to be photographed, you may be asked to remove jewellery, make-up and/or clothing. The photographer will also explain and show you how you will need to sit or stand.

**Please note:** The flash lighting used will be bright.

Sometimes mirrors and retractors (plastic tools to retract cheeks) are used to assist seeing into the mouth, and hair bands or grips may be used to keep hair away from the face.

## Chaperoning policy

Occasionally, when photographs of a sensitive nature are required, it may not be possible for the same sex photographer to take the photographs. On these occasions a chaperone will be present. Often the chaperone will be behind a screen and will concentrate on the photographer's actions and not you, the patient.

If you are at all unhappy with being photographed by a photographer of the opposite sex, we will happily, when feasible, rebook your appointment. However if the condition is likely to change before your alternative appointment is made, it would be advisable to go ahead with the existing appointment.

## Consent policy

Photographs are taken at the request of your consultant or senior nurse and should be explained to you why they require the photographs. The request should be documented in your notes. If the photographs are required for publication an EKHUFT consent form will be used.

We have 3 levels of consent:

- Record purposes only
- Teaching
- Publication

If you change your mind about the level of consent you originally gave, please contact the Medical Photography and Illustration Department in writing. On receipt of your letter the department will amend your records where possible, according to your wishes.

Please note that we cannot destroy the photographs from your records as we have a legal requirement to keep them but we can limit access to them.

In addition you must be aware that once a photograph has been published, especially in a journal, they will be accessible on the web and it will be hard to police external access to these photographs.

For further information about EKHUFT's consent policy, please go to:



## Who owns the photographs?

EKHUFT owns the copyright and it is illegal for any unauthorised person to make copies of your photographs. Further information can also be found in the Trust's consent policy.

If you wish to purchase a copy of your photographs, you will need to apply to the EKHUFT Medical Records Department, who will ask you to complete a form and request an administration fee.

The exception to this rule will be mole maps (a fee still applies).

For further information about any of the clinical services we provide, please contact the Medical Photography and Illustration Department on: Tel: 01227 866461 or Email: [ekh-tr.medphoto@nhs.net](mailto:ekh-tr.medphoto@nhs.net)

### Opening Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm  
Closed for lunch between 12:30 and 1:00pm  
Closed all Bank Holidays

### Address:

Medical Photography and Illustration Dept.  
East Kent Hospitals University NHS  
Foundation Trust  
Kent and Canterbury Hospital (K&C)  
Ethelbert Road  
Canterbury  
Kent CT1 3NG

### Web Address:

[www.ekhufnhs.uk/medicalphotography](http://www.ekhufnhs.uk/medicalphotography)

## HOW TO FIND US –

The Medical Illustration Department is outside in a portakabin, towards the back of the hospital.  
*(Please note; building and repair work may be in progress in the Estates area and extra care may be needed).*

1. Please go to the K&C Hospital entrance marked 'OUTPATIENTS'
2. On entering 'Outpatients' turn left and walk to the Outpatients reception requesting Medical Photography.
3. The Outpatients Receptionist will notify us to collect you for your appointment.



**NHS**

East Kent  
Hospitals University  
NHS Foundation Trust



**MedPhoto**

Medical Photography & Illustration Service

## Clinical Photography Information for Patients

**MedPhoto is a specialised clinical service:**  
Multi-media is used to visually document and present clinical conditions, procedures and equipment to achieve and maintain award winning standards.