Medical Photography
Information and advice for patients

*Medical Illustration*

**What is medical photography?**
Medical photography is where digital photographs are taken of parts of the body, by a qualified medical photographer. The photographs are then kept as part of your medical notes. You may be asked to be photographed at different stages of your treatment such as before, during and after treatment.

**Why have I been asked to have photographs taken?**
Medical photographs are a good way of keeping a visual record in your medical notes of your condition. They can be used to assess the progress of your treatment and condition, as your images can be compared each time they are taken.

**Giving your consent for photography**
When your doctor explains to you that they wish for photographs to be taken of you, they will ask you to sign a consent form. There are 3 ways in which your photographs can be used, but they will only be used in the way that you give consent for:

1. **Patient Record** - This means that your photographs will be used to form part of your confidential patient records, which will only be accessed by clinical staff involved in your treatment.

2. **Restricted Educational Use** - This means that you allow for your photographs to be used for medical teaching and research.

3. **Open Publication** - This means that your photographs may be used for publication in a journal, textbook, leaflet, or website. They may be seen by general public as well as medical professionals.

It is important you understand the consent form you are asked to sign. If you have any questions, or wish to withdraw all or part of your consent please speak to your doctor, or medical photographer; they will be happy to discuss this with you.

**How and where are photographs taken?**
If you are an outpatient the photographs will be taken by the hospital medical photographers (Medical Illustration) in their studio. If you are an inpatient the photographer may come to you on the ward. You can bring a family member or friend to be with you whilst you have your photographs taken if you wish.

The photographer will take your photography request form and confirm your details, including your consent. They will then explain to you the photographs they will take and how they will be taken. You may be asked to remove items of clothing, jewellery...
or spectacles in order to get the clearest photographs of your condition. If you have any concerns or feel uncomfortable at any time please let the photographer know.

If possible, a photographer of the same sex as you will take your photographs. However if this is not possible and you do not wish to have the photographs taken by someone of a different sex, you can book an appointment for a later date. If you are comfortable with having a photographer of the opposite sex then a chaperone will also be present.

**How will my photographs be stored?**
Your photographs will be stored securely within the Medical Illustration Department. They will also be uploaded onto the hospital’s secure, password-protected image viewing software where only clinical staff involved in your care can view them. Images will only be printed, emailed or put onto password-protected CD/USB sticks if you have given consent for this.

The copyright of all medical images taken within this hospital is held by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

**How can I get a copy of the photographs?**
If you would like copies of your medical photographs, you can do so by contacting:

**Medico-Legal Department**
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust
City Hospital
Dudley Road
Birmingham
B18 7QH
Tel: 0121 507 4318

**Where to find the photography studio (Medical Illustration)**

**City Hospital**
The Medical Illustration (photography) Department at City Hospital is on the ground floor of the main hospital building.

From the front entrance of the main hospital turn right down the corridor and continue past the fracture clinic, following the signs to Medical Illustration.

From the entrance to the Birmingham Treatment Centre, take the lift or escalator to the first floor and continue down the corridor ahead of you, keeping to the left. You will then enter the older part of the hospital and Medical Illustration is along that corridor.
Medical Illustration

Sandwell Hospital
The Medical Illustration Department at Sandwell is on the ground floor in the outpatients department. From the main entrance to outpatients, turn left and then left again down the corridor, following the signs to Medical Illustration.

Further information
For more information about our hospitals and services please see our website:

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust
www.swbh.nhs.uk