Medical Photography

Patient Information

Medical Illustration Department
Why have I been asked to have photographs taken of my condition?
The consultant in charge of your case has requested that clinical photographic/video recordings be taken of your condition. Before having these photographs taken the clinician or another health professional will have explained the reasons why these recordings are required and how they will be used. If you are unsure please contact your Consultant/Clinician directly.

How will my images be stored?
Most photographic recordings are stored in your Electronic Patient Record and used by the clinician to assess your condition at your next appointment or possibly be shown to other medical staff as an aid to learning. Occasionally photographs may be of particular interest to a clinician doing research and they may want to use your photographs in a medical publication. This will not be done without your express written consent and your treatment will not be affected in any way if you refuse. You may even withdraw your consent at a later date by letting our department know in writing as soon as possible. It is important that you or your relatives are comfortable with the level of consent that you give. This hospital trust has three levels of consent: open publication, restricted educational use and case note use only. Although you can withdraw your consent, we could not be liable if recordings had already been published.

How will I be photographed?
Photography is undertaken in the department studio at Leigh Infirmary, outpatient clinics, anywhere within the Trust, or if you are an inpatient, on the ward. Surgeons may also ask for your consent to take photographs during your operation for record or teaching purposes; however it may only become evident that photographs are needed once your surgery has commenced. If photographs are taken your consent will be sought for these images to be used as soon as possible after the operation. Should you wish the photographs not to be used then they will be destroyed.

Whilst having the photographs taken you may be asked to remove items of clothing and jewellery in order that the area of importance can be seen. However, if this upsets you in any way please let the photographer know and your wishes will be respected at all times. You may wish a relative or friend to be present during photography, please inform the photographer as soon as you arrive at the department. In some instances use of a chaperone will be necessary. We understand that you may be nervous or have questions about what will take place during the photographic session and hope that you will inform us of any concerns you may have. We endeavor to conceal your identity on all recordings but this may not always be possible, depending on the area of importance.

Will I have to wait?
A clinician may send you down to our department from an outpatient clinic at a busy time, which may involve a short wait before you can be seen. Occasionally all the photographers may be unavailable, as they may be called out at other sites within the Trust. If this is the case, please retain your request form and telephone us to arrange another appointment.
Very occasionally we can make arrangements to visit you at home, but it is always preferable to have the photographs taken in the hospital.

**Who is a Medical Photographer?**
A qualified member of the department will photograph you. We currently have two female and one male photographer. Should you have any preference in who undertakes your photography, please let us know, however we can assure you that all our staff will respect your privacy, dignity and confidentiality at all times. Your photographs will be securely stored on the hospital database in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and only accessible by the relevant health professionals. The photographer(s) will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding your visit to the department, but are unable to discuss your medical condition or treatment.

---

**Contact Details**

Department of Medical Illustration  
Leigh Infirmary,  
The Avenue  
Leigh  
WN7 1HS  
Tel: (01942) 264324

---

**Main Entrance**  
**Medical Illustration**  
**Visitor’s Entrance**

---

Map showing directions to Leigh Infirmary.
Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Wigan Lane
Wigan WN1 2NN

Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille and other languages upon request. For more information call 01942 773106.

© Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust
All rights reserved. Not to be reproduced in whole or in part without the permission of the copyright owner