

What is clinical photography and why do I need my photo taken? Information for young people

This information sheet explains about clinical photography at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) and why your doctor might want us to take your photograph. If you have any questions, please ring us on 020 7813 8212.

Clinical photography is a specialist type of photography used to show medical conditions.

In some cases, it is useful to have 'before' and 'after' photos if you have had an operation or treatment. It is also useful to have a series of photos showing you growing older.

Photos are also used to teach other doctors and nurses or if permission given, used in medical magazines or posters.

Who will be able to see my photos?

If the photos are in your medical notes, only members of your healthcare team will be able to see them. Access to our photographs is strictly controlled with secure usernames and passwords, which are only given to people who need to see your photos as part of their job.

Who takes the photos?

Clinical photographs are taken by specially trained photographers who work in Medical Photography.

We have four photographers in the department: two men and two women. If you would prefer to have your photos taken by someone the same sex as you, please ask.

Do I have to agree to have my photos taken?

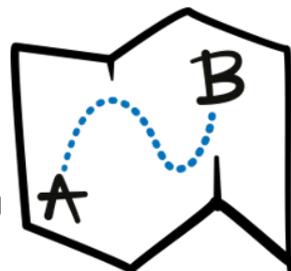
Your parents will need to give permission if you are aged under 16 but of course, we would like you to agree too. You and your parents can talk about how you would like the photos used.

You can ask that they only go in your medical notes, or you could agree to them being used in teaching or publications. If you are worried about having your photo taken, please talk to us about it.

What happens when my photos are taken?

In most cases, we will ask you to come up to our department to have your photos taken in our studio. This is a professional studio, with flash lights and backgrounds, so it can be quite bright.

Depending on which bit of you we are photographing, you might need to take off some clothes, your jewellery or hold your hair back with a headband. Your parents can come into the studio with you, or if you prefer, we can ask one of the team to come in as a chaperone. Once the photographer has everything set up and you are ready to be photographed, you might need to stand up, sit down or lie down. We will always do



our best to keep you comfortable and take the photos as quickly as possible.

What happens afterwards?

Once all the photos have been taken, you can go home if you have no other appointments that day. The photos we have taken will be uploaded to our computer system and added to your medical notes if your doctor has requested this.

