

Taking photographs when your baby is born

This leaflet is for women and their birthing partners who wish to take photographs of the birth of their baby/babies, including by Caesarean birth and assisted vaginal delivery.

Having a collection of photographs of your newborn baby is very important for many parents. We are very happy for you to do this, but do bear in mind that you need to be mindful of your, and members of staff's, rights to privacy, dignity and safety.

Before the birth you (and your partner/birth partner) may wish to decide (together) what is, and what is not, an acceptable image for your photo album. Many parents often like to have one of the baby/ies in the moments after birth, one on the scales, and some with either mum and/or partner. However, images where there is blood, or of naked areas of the body can be upsetting in some eyes, and may not be ones you would want to take, or share.

Important advice

- Do remember that if the birth is happening in a surgical theatre. This is an environment where there are staff in sterile PPE, and a lot of equipment is sterile, **so please check with the midwife or doctor at your baby's birth before you start taking photographs.**
- Please **do not lean over the midwife or obstetrician, or walk around the birth room / theatre**, as there are areas, which we need to keep sterile. An accidental stumble or bump into these people or equipment has important consequences for you and your delivery, as we have to remove 'contaminated' equipment or gowns and replace them, leading to delays, which may be crucial.
- **All members of staff have a right to privacy and should not be photographed or recorded without their knowledge or permission** so 'secret' filming of videos and recording of audio clips, using your mobile phone is not reasonable and staff may ask to you to stop, or leave, if you try to do this.
- You may ask the midwife or maternity care assistant to take a photograph of the birth partner, cutting the baby's cord where that is possible.

Sharing your news and photos

If you have delivered in a theatre, we have found that most parents prefer to wait until they have been moved from the Delivery Theatres before contacting family and friend. This gives you time to meet your baby together, and for staff to reassure you that all is well. Sending and receiving news while still in theatre can take you away from the moment, and may become intrusive for you with your phone constantly 'pinging'. It can also disturb staff from concentrating on important safety checks.

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

J Siddall (Consultant Obstetrician), June 2008. Reviewed: March 2021. Next review due: March 2023

Compassionate

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Excellent