

Taking photographs when your baby is born

This leaflet is for parents who wish to take photographs of the birth of their baby/babies by Caesarean section.

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 there are some considerations for staff and other families to bear in mind.

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.

Many parents are keen to use social media to alert family and friends to their news, but it might be better to wait until the baby has been weighed and all the necessary wellbeing checks have been done on both mother and baby before sharing with the wider world, as you may find that you start receiving a lot of congratulatory, but intrusive texts as you are trying to meet your baby properly.

1. Please check with the midwife or doctor at your baby's birth before you start taking photographs. We ask that you do not attempt to lean over the midwife or obstetrician, or walk around the birth room / theatre as there are sterile areas which we need to keep as such. 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, leading to delays, which may be crucial.
2. You may ask the midwife or maternity care assistant to take a photograph of the baby's cord being cut by a birth partner where that is possible.
3. To protect other people's right to privacy and confidentiality:
 - No photographs of other families should be taken without their knowledge and permission.
 - **All members of staff have a right to privacy and should not be photographed 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 you to stop, or leave, if you try to do this.

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

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