



LONDON'S
AIR AMBULANCE
 roadside intensive care



Pre-hospital Care Standard Operating Procedure

Photography

REVIEW:	May 2010	
APPROVAL/ ADOPTED:	PHC Policy Board	
DISTRIBUTION:	PHC Doctors PHC Paramedics PHC Pilots	
RELATED DOCUMENTS:	SOP Observers Barts and The London NHS Trust 'Code of Responsible Practice for Medical Illustration'. [BLT/POL/01106/MED]. GMC Guidance 'Good Medical Practice, Confidentiality'. [Paragraph 37] British Paramedic Association 'Code of Conduct'. The Data Protection Act 1998	
THIS DOCUMENT REFERS TO:	PHC Clinical Practice PHC Non-clinical Practice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PHC Operational Procedure	Ref: OP-12

Aims:

- Describe rationale for using photography.
- Describe photographic equipment used in the department and the processes for taking and dealing with photographs after the incident.
- To ensure the confidentiality and security of information and images acquired in the course of professional practice.
- To ensure the rights and dignity of patients are upheld.
- To ensure compliance with:
 - Barts and The London NHS Trust 'Code of Responsible Practice for Medical Illustration'. [BLT/POL/01106/MED].
 - GMC Guidance 'Good Medical Practice, Confidentiality'. [Paragraph 37]
 - British Paramedic Association 'Code of Conduct'.
 - The Data Protection Act 1998

Background:

Trauma team leaders frequently use mechanism of injury (MOI) as a tool in deciding diagnostic and therapeutic priorities. As well as providing a clear & concise handover the pre-hospital teams may provide pictures that can assist hospital teams in understanding the incident and anticipating likely injury patterns.

The PHC teams have access to a digital still camera to capture scene information. Patient confidentiality must be respected at all times.

Policy:

- All photographs remain the property of the Trust and should not be moved or transferred without express permission from a PHC Consultant.
- Photographs should only be taken with Trust equipment. No personal cameras should be carried at any time unless with prior consent from the Lead Clinician. *This includes observers.*
- Photographs should only be taken with clear objectives in mind and only for the purposes of audit, teaching and clinical care.
- Still digital photographs should be taken with the digital still camera held in the aircraft or response car. If it is deemed appropriate for photography to be taken at the scene the flight registrar or paramedic should indicate to the pilots or a policeman to bring the camera from the aircraft to the scene. Wherever possible the picture should be taken by the pilots. A clear instruction should be given as to what the picture should include and what it shouldn't. Pictures should be taken at 1800 x 1200 and fine resolution.
- On arrival back at the helipad the co-pilot or firecrew should download pictures to the HEMS server (server\share\images\on scene file) and title all pictures with day, date and a description. The picture can then be printed off and fed into the clinical notes and held on the database for reference.
- Should a picture accidentally identify a patient, the picture should be anonymised in whatever way possible, either by cropping the picture or blurring appropriate detail e.g. face, car, registration numbers.
- Photographs which are to be used for teaching and training require express consent to be obtained. Trust documentation must be used for this purpose. If it is not possible to obtain consent, the photographs may be used provided the material is not published or otherwise in the public domain.