Smartphone Use for Wound Photography
Standard Operating Procedure
1. **Aim**

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been prepared to ensure best practice and standardisation of digital wound photography with a Smartphone across RDaSH.

2. **Scope**

The target audience for this SOP are frontline clinicians who have a Trust owned Smartphone and are directly involved in providing wound care for patients.

3. **Link to Overarching Policy and/or Procedure**

Wound Management Policy V2.


4. **Procedure**

4.1 **Assessment**

Patients with wounds will have an initial and on-going assessment of their wound using the Trust recognised wound assessment tool. This assessment should be supported by digital photography. Minor wounds and grazes do not necessarily need photographing unless there are complications. All category 2, 3, 4 and ungradeable pressure ulcers should be photographed.

Photographs will be taken on initial assessment or as soon as possible if the digital device is not available on the day.

The wound should be re-photographed:

- Weekly or if there are any significant changes or concerns regarding the wound
- To show the patient their wound in order to promote compliance with treatment
- For evidence when there are safeguarding issues.

4.2 **Risk Management**


The patient’s confidentiality will not be compromised. Identity will be protected at all times.
4.3 Consent

The healthcare professional is responsible for ensuring the patient has given informed consent before any photography takes place. This consent will be documented in the patient’s clinical record (Refer to the Consent to Examination or Treatment Policy: [http://www.rdash.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Consent-to-Treatment-Policy-v7.31.pdf](http://www.rdash.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Consent-to-Treatment-Policy-v7.31.pdf)).

4.4 Taking Photographs

The healthcare professional should

- Ensure the Smartphone is pre-set to record the date and time picture is taken (if this function is available. If function not available ensure photograph email is uploaded on to patient record to ensure date is recorded).
- Obtain Patient consent before taking the photograph and this record in the patient’s notes.
- Protect the patient identity by ensuring that faces or any other obvious features are obscured.
- Protect patient dignity and modesty by ensuring minimum patient skin exposure. Genitalia will be covered to preserve dignity. If damage is around or on genitalia and safeguarding is a concern, clinical judgement will be used.
- The wound and surrounding skin (in particular the perineum) will be cleansed if indicated prior to the photograph being taken.
- Follow-up photographs will be taken with the patient in a similar position to previous photographs.
- Follow up photographs will be taken from a similar angle and distance so that photographs can be compared objectively.
- Visual measurement scale will be used in each photograph. This will be placed next to the wound. The paper sterile ruler supplied in dressing pack will be used for this purpose. The patient’s identification details and wound site can be added to the sterile ruler.
- The clinician will ensure gloves are removed and hand washing undertaken between dealing with the patient/wound and using the digital device.

4.5 Storage of Photographs

All Trust staff will be professionally accountable for the correct storage of all images that they have taken. They will be responsible for erasing images from their devices immediately after use.

- Photographs will be stored in the patients’ main clinical record. This will be the Electronic Patient Record whenever possible.
- The photograph will be uploaded at the earliest opportunity. Photographs should be deleted from the camera device as soon possible after the picture has been added to the clinical record.
- The photograph will be stored within the patient’s clinical record in the appropriate folder e.g. On SystmOne records add the photograph as an attachment in the communication folder.
- Photographs must not be permanently stored on laptops or computers.
- No other record of the photograph will be retained unless there is a specific intention for its use as stated within the Consent to Examination or Treatment Policy.