

Hand Photography Tips

Speak to family to find out if they would like to take hand holding pictures. Family may want other pictures on an individual basis.

Hand photos can be taken with individual family members or a group of family members. Patient's hands are often discolored, swollen and may not look normal. Family members can hold hands in a way that hides any distortion. Cupping the patient's hand between a family members two hands or multiple hands can also be effective.

The hands of critically ill patients are often pale, mottled or cyanotic in appearance. Prior to printing, crop the image to eliminate unnecessary peripheral content. Printing the image in sepia or black and white is an effective way to neutralize colors.

Pictures can be printed at the bedside with a simple color photography printer. Canon Selphy is used in CCTC and can print 4 X 6 inch prints in color, black and white or sepia.

Pictures can be placed in inexpensive frames or card holder frames.

Prior to taking a photo, ask the family if they would like pictures taken. Document the conversation and consent in the chart.

Photographs that will be printed should be taken with a hospital camera. It is extremely distressing if photographs or pictures get lost; these cannot be replaced. Keep the photo image until the family has been given a printed copy and a copy of the image if desired.

Encourage family members to also take photos with their cell phones if desired. This provides an additional safeguard against loss of photos.