



Neonatal Bereavement Support Photography

Exploring experiences and variables

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Aims

- To consider variables in the process
 - Location
 - Staff assisting
 - Who is present
 - Personal background and experience
- Examine how these affect
 - The experience of the photographer
 - The quality of the photographs
 - The feelings of the family



Evidence base

IMI National Photography Guidelines
“Bereavement Photography (April 2006)”

JVCM

Bereavement Photography (National Guidelines)
Journal of Visual Communication in Medicine, Volume 29, Issue 3, 2006, Pages 132– 134

Good grief: a medical illustrator's view of bereavement photography, Bolette Jones,
Journal of Visual Communication in Medicine, Volume 25, Issue 2, 2002, Pages 69 – 70

The photography of neonatal bereavement at Wythenshawe Hospital, Rachel Meredith,
Journal of Visual Communication in Medicine, Volume 23, Issue 4, 2000, Pages 161 – 164

Ethics, morals and patient photography
B Jones - Journal of Visual Communication in Medicine, 1994



What is the purpose of Neonatal Bereavement Support Photography?



IMI National Photography Guidelines - Bereavement Photography

Bereavement photographs are recognised as an important part of the grieving process. As a consequence such photographs are extremely valuable to the parents and next of kin. These photographs provide the families with a tangible memory of their child. The photographs may be viewed years after they are taken; it is therefore imperative that the images are produced to the highest photographic and archival quality.



Bereavement Photography, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust Policy

The purpose of bereavement photography is to assist the bereavement support of parents who have lost a baby or child. Medical Photography aim to provide high quality photographs that will be treasured by parents. Using a combination of photographic techniques, the photographer aims to provide the best possible portrait of the baby and when required, the baby and parent(s).



How do we do it?

- Department policy
- Process
 - Location
 - Staff / family present
 - Technique
 - Communication
 - Output
 - Delivery



Personal viewpoints and approaches

Stephen Moore



Personal viewpoints and approaches

Joanne Dunlop



Personal viewpoints and approaches

Becky Smith



Results

- Effects on staff
- The parent's experience
- Quality of photography



Summary

- Its difficult. Shapter (1) “staff should have access to support and options not to be involved”
- Problems encountered
- Feedback from Bereavement Support Midwife
- Effects of personal life experience

(1) Strategies for Managing Workplace Stress in Medical Photography
M Shapter - Journal of Visual Communication in Medicine, 2005