

Safeguarding Checks

for Clinical and Ophthalmic Photographers



The Institute of Medical Illustrators (IMI) is committed to keeping vulnerable groups (children and protected adults) safe by recommending effective screening processes and procedures when recruiting clinical and ophthalmic photographers.

- Clinical and ophthalmic photographers work directly with patients, as part of a multidisciplinary team, within the healthcare setting. The care provided is deemed a **regulated activity**.
- Clinical and ophthalmic photographers make visual recordings for treatment planning, diagnosis, and for documenting and monitoring the progress of a patient's condition.
- Clinical and ophthalmic photographers are responsible for the capture, security, storage and retrieval of clinical photographs, governed by consent, confidentiality, safeguarding and data storage legislation, including the Data Protection Act 2018, the Human Rights Act 1998, the Mental Capacity Act 2005, and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
- Clinical and ophthalmic photographers can be called upon to photograph protected adults and children that have non-accidental injuries. The clinical photographs can be used as evidence and the photographer called as an expert witness in a court of law.

Disclosure Certificates

In the United Kingdom, checks for employment come in the form of a Disclosure Certificate that is issued by one of three main sources: the Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) in England and Wales, Disclosure Scotland in Scotland, and AccessNI in Northern Ireland. In the Republic of Ireland, Police Certificates are issued by the National Vetting Bureau.

The three main types of criminal record disclosure available are Basic, Standard and Enhanced.

IMI recognises that the responsibility for having safe and careful recruitment processes in place rests with employers, and supports and encourages the use of **enhanced** checks to ensure appropriate candidates are selected for clinical and ophthalmic photographers job roles.

England and Wales

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (England and Wales).

Scotland

The Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007.

Northern Ireland

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007.

Republic of Ireland

National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 16.

Institute of Medical Illustrators

The Institute of Medical Illustrators (IMI) is the professional body for medical illustrators and recommends that all medical illustrators who are patient-facing are qualified and registered on the Academy of Healthcare Science (AHCS) register, accredited by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA).

www.imi.org.uk/resources/for-employers

Academy for Healthcare Science

The Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS) also recommends that all medical illustrators who are patient-facing are qualified and registered on the Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS) register which is accredited by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA).

Search the register to check the practising status of a medical illustration practitioner:

www.ahcs.ac.uk/members/member.cfm

Professional Standards Authority

The Professional Standards Authority (PSA) recommends that only medical illustration practitioners who are regulated on an Accredited Register are employed.

www.professionalstandards.org.uk/check-practitioners/practitioner/medical-illustrator