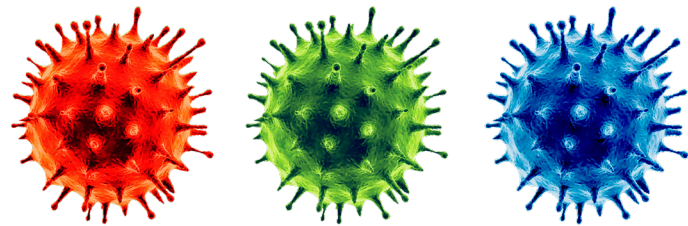


# 'Caught in the act of care'

**Laura Johnstone** – Senior Medical Photographer  
**Lisa Miller** – Medical Photographer  
Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC) is the largest health board in Scotland, providing care to a population of 1.2 million people. We are two of over twenty clinical photographers who work within Medical Illustration Services and are based on the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Campus in south Glasgow supporting both adult and children's hospitals.



When the Covid-19 pandemic first hit back in March, staff were unsure and anxious of what it would mean for their day-to-day working lives. With clinics reduced or cancelled more or less overnight, staff expected to be re-deployed to other services within the hospital.

As it turned out, the medical illustration team proved to be as busy as ever, and were seen as essential in supporting the ever-changing needs of NHSGGC. The graphics and admin teams were inundated with requests for leaflets, posters and signage informing patients and staff of the new rules and procedures. The video team were tasked with creating instructional videos regarding PPE and new policies and procedures, and to showcase the work of healthcare professionals, both on the frontline and in supporting roles.



Clinical photographers continued to work in the wards and in theatres, as well as seeing the small number of out-patients that attended; however alongside this, was a growing demand for non-clinical photography, that included portraiture, documentary and product requests. Pre-COVID, our availability for this type of PR work was limited as clinical demands were so high; however, with fewer patients, the team were able to respond to these daily, and often short-notice, requests.

▲ When working with Covid-positive patients staff are required to be mask fitted, the mask must be kept on for the duration of each session in the ward. On leaving the ward the PPE is 'doffed' and then new PPE 'donned' when returning to the clinical area.

Capturing images of patients leaving the hospital after battling Covid-19, the Clap for Carers movement, and Project Wingman were just a few of the jobs the team were involved in, and many of our images were used on social media, and in both the regional and national press and news bulletins .

Volunteers who usually assist patients in navigating the hospital ► were helping hand out alcohol gel to staff arriving at the hospital.



One of the highlights during this time was Caught in the Act of Care, a joint project from QEUH management and Medical Illustration Services. The main objectives were to document, through images, the staff and their new ways of working in a different environment, and to recognise and highlight their efforts and achievements. Often people shy away from the camera, but staff embraced the project and many came forward to ask if they could be included.



Ambulance staff preparing for their next call. ►



▲ Re-deployed staff assisted colleagues when donning PPE, name and job titles were written on the gowns.

◀ Nurse preparing medication on the ward



▼ Podiatrist carrying out treatment on an in-patient.



The final exhibition consisted of 65 images, covering staff across all disciplines, and not just those on the frontline. It is hoped that the display captures the spirit, strength and resilience of the staff, and the passion and dedication they have for their profession and for the NHS.



Clinical photographers, in their routine environment, use standard views and magnifications to record a patient's condition to help clinicians document, diagnose and evaluate that condition. Covid-19 forced us to step out of our comfort zone into a more creative world; although it was challenging, the experience has given us both confidence and courage, and we take pride in what we have achieved, personally and professionally.



▲ Physiotherapists don PPE in order to be in close contact with patient to allow them to continue carrying out essential therapy.



▲ With in-patients not allowed to have visitors small things like a cup of tea from the trolley helped to break up the long day.essential therapy.



▲ Staff working with Covid-positive patients are required to wear aprons under the gowns, a fitted mask, hat and in some cases visors or goggles.



▲ One of Lisa's images, selected from over 31,000 entries, appears in a virtual exhibition of the National Portrait Gallery's Hold Still project, which was spearheaded by The Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton.

As part of the healthcare science community, accredited through the AHCS Medical Illustration Register, we believe it is important that we exchange information and learn from each other's experiences. We are pleased to be able to share with you a selection of images, that shows just a small part of what we have been doing during the Covid-19 pandemic.