



**Spinal Seating Professional Development Project
Reference Document RD2.1: Handy Hints for Taking Photos (MAT and Wounds)**

Handy tips for taking photos for MAT assessment and wounds

A picture paints a thousand words...

With client's permission, mark the bony landmark with sticker dots on the skin to highlight position:

- Marking on clothing is less accurate and requires remarking once the client shifts
- Checking and remarking the dots is required when the client moves between supine and sitting

Key landmarks include:

- Sternum, left and right ASIS, and left and right acromion process from the anterior view
- Left and right PSIS and spinal process from the posterior view

When the client is sitting in the wheelchair and on the plinth, squat down to take photos levelled with the client's hips. This will give a better elevation perspective and size proportion in the photos. Remember, a good photo needs good lighting and contrasting backgrounds.

Photos should be taken in 3 perspectives to give a comprehensive representation of the client's sitting posture:

- from the side
- from the front
- from the back

Additional photos should be taken from above if client presents with trunk rotation, pelvic rotation, wind swept posture, and asymmetrical head positioning.

Zoom in on areas where specific details are required. For example, photo can focus on cervical area where lateral flexion was prominent. Compare the photos with initial posture and simulated posture. Remember, a good photo needs good lighting and contrasting backgrounds

Optional: insert photos into a Word document. Highlight areas of concern with labels or hand written notes. This can be used as seating or funding submission reports with the client's consent.

Skin check and photos:

Whilst a photo does not illustrate the grade and the depth of the wound clearly, some clinicians have taken photos for the purpose of making a referral to nursing services and to NSW State Spinal Cord Injury Service, Spinal Plastic Services. Indicate the location of the wound in relation to body parts and anatomical alignment in the print out or by text inserts. Eg, use arrows to indicate direction towards distal or proximal, medial or lateral.

A ruler (a sterile ruler in preference), can be used to indicate the size of the wound next to the area in the photo, but do not contact the wound.

Do not open a wound dressing unless you have the resource and skill to dress it again in a sterile environment.

Please refer to your area health service medical record policy regarding the labelling, storage, and transmission of multimedia content in medical documentation and referrals.