

Your appointment at the Skin Lesion Clinic

Department of Dermatology

Information for Patients

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Introduction

You have been referred to the Skin Lesion Clinic as you have been diagnosed with a growth or your skin has changed appearance (skin lesion). This leaflet will give you some information about the service before you are seen.

Your appointment will take place at one of the following hospitals:

- Leicester General Hospital
- Melton Mowbray Hospital
- Loughborough Hospital
- Hinckley and District Hospital

Every effort will be made to book you an appointment closest to where you live, however we may book you in the next available clinic slot in order that you are seen as soon as possible.

About the service

Leicester hospitals and Skin Analytics (a research-led company), are working in partnership to deliver a dermatology service using specialist technology which can assess whether your skin lesion(s) needs to be seen by a skin doctor (dermatologist) for further investigation.

Patients who are over the age of 18 will be referred to the service, usually by their GP, for assessment of a skin lesion(s) when there is a suspicion of skin cancer. This service will not be able to assess rashes or other skin conditions such as eczema, acne or psoriasis.

What happens on the day?

Please note you will not be seeing a doctor at this appointment. The whole process will take about 20 minutes.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

You will see a member of the Outpatients Team who will be able to answer any questions you may have about the service. They will ask you questions about your skin and skin lesion(s).

Please note you may be asked to remove jewellery or make-up where necessary. Depending on the location of your skin lesion(s), you may also be asked to remove articles of clothing to gain a better view of the area. If you need to remove clothing to show a private area of your body, you may ask for somebody else (a chaperone) to be with you.

2 or more photographs of each skin lesion(s) will then be taken by one of the team using a smartphone. 1 of these photos will be taken with a special magnifying lens, attached to the smartphone, which will be placed on your skin.

These photographs will be put into a code (encrypted) and electronically transferred by secure means, so only the dermatologist can see them. They can be analysed by a computer programme (called DERM) that has been developed by Skin Analytics, which can recognise skin cancer and common harmless skin conditions from photos.

Dermatologists will then decide if you need to be seen by the Dermatology Department at Leicester's hospitals for further tests, or if you can be discharged from this service.

Not all skin lesions are suitable for assessment by DERM, for example, those covered in hair or under nails.

Getting your permission for the process

Before taking photographs of your skin lesion(s), the team will get your permission (consent). They will discuss the process with you in detail to make sure you are comfortable with the photographs being taken and the use of your photographs.

You may withdraw your consent at any time by contacting Skin Analytics using the details given at the end of this leaflet. Photographs that have been used to make a treatment decision cannot be deleted, however your photographs can be withdrawn and hidden from viewing on your electronic patient record until you give permission for them to be viewed again.

Withdrawing your consent will not affect your treatment or any future treatment you may receive, and there will be the opportunity to attend hospital for a face-to-face appointment.

How will I find out the result of this photographic procedure?

You should get a letter in the post within 2 to 3 weeks of your visit, or a telephone call asking you to attend a face-to-face consultation. In some cases, a skin biopsy is recommended. This is where a sample of your skin is taken around the area of/ from the lesion, so it can be looked at in closer detail under a microscope. A member of the Dermatology Team will be in contact with you to discuss a skin biopsy, if this is needed.

If you have not heard about your results within 3 weeks of your appointment, or are concerned about changes in your skin lesion, please contact the Booking Centre on the numbers given at the end of this leaflet.

Does an urgent follow-up appointment mean I have cancer?

No. You could be asked to come back urgently for a number of reasons. Urgent appointments will generally be seen within a few weeks, so there should not be a long wait.

Can I have copies of the photographs?

Yes. Details of how to access your medical records can be found on leaflet 216 'Access to your health records', which can be viewed on our online patient information store from this link: <https://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/patients/patient-and-visitor-services/health-and-medical-records/>

The application form can be found on the hospital's website. You will need to give your name, date of birth, hospital number (if known) and the hospital where you are being treated.

How is my data used?

To process your assessment, we securely store your medical history information and photos, together with standard identification information, which is needed for the safe and accurate filing of your assessment report (your name, date of birth and NHS number).

The assessment report will be available for Leicester's hospitals to use appropriately in support of any further care you may need.

The assessment report will be sent to your GP practice to be included in your medical records. The assessment may be reviewed for quality assurance purposes by Skin Analytics or other authorised bodies. This data may include information collected during the assessment and any subsequent diagnoses relating to the skin lesions assessed.

We ask for your consent to be able to use your data for research purposes to improve our service. Where information about your assessment is used for research purposes, it will be stored without using your name. More information can be found in the Skin Analytics privacy policy which you can find by following the link here: www.skin-analytics.com/Privacy

Contact details

If your appointment is at Leicester General Hospital and you need to cancel or change your appointment, or for any other queries please contact:

Booking Centre: 0300 303 1563 / Email: DermatologyAdmin@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

If your appointment is at one of the community hospitals and you need to cancel or change your appointment please call:

- Loughborough Hospital: 01509 564414
- Hinckley and District Hospital: 01455 441918
- Melton Mowbray Hospital: 01664 854811

