

UHB: Teledermatology Service

Patient Information Leaflet (PIL)

You've been referred to the University Hospitals Birmingham Community Clinic run in partnership with Skin Analytics who will support the assessment of your skin lesion(s). Here is some useful information for you to know about the service before you are seen.

About the service

- University Hospitals Birmingham and Skin Analytics are working in partnership to deliver a dermatology service which will assess whether your skin lesion(s) needs to be seen by a dermatologist for further investigation.
- Patients who are over the age of 18 will be referred into the service, usually by their GP, for assessment of up to two lesions when there is a suspicion of skin cancer.
- Not all lesions are appropriate for this service, for example those obscured by hair or under nails. At the assessment a healthcare professional will confirm whether the lesion is appropriate prior to conducting the assessment.
- This service will not be able to assess rashes or other skin conditions such as eczema, acne or psoriasis.

What happens on the day?

- A member of the team will be able to answer any questions you may have about the service and get your consent before the assessment begins.
- They will then ask about your medical history and any questions specific to the skin lesion(s) being assessed.
- Two images of each lesion will then be taken on a smartphone by the healthcare professional. One of these photos will be taken with a special magnifying lens, attached to the smartphone, which will be placed on your skin.
- These photos will be encrypted and electronically transferred, by secure means, so they can be immediately analysed by a computer program (called DERM) that has been developed by Skin Analytics to recognise skin cancer and common harmless skin conditions from photographs.
- DERM will provide a recommendation of whether or not the lesion(s) needs to be seen by the UHB Dermatology department for further investigation.
- You will be contacted by UHB within seven working days to let you know whether a referral to the UHB Dermatology department has been recommended or not. If you are referred you will be given further instructions which may include the need to attend a face-to-face assessment.
- In addition, images of your lesion(s) will be taken by a member of the Clinical Photography team using a professional camera, and these images will support the dermatologists when assessing your case.

How is your data used?

- To process your assessment, we securely store your medical history data and images, together with standard identification information necessary for safe and accurate filing of the assessment report (your name, date of birth and NHS number).
- The assessment report will be available for University Hospitals Birmingham 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 lesions assessed.
- We will ask for your consent to be able to use your data for research purposes to improve our service. Where data relating to your assessment is used for research purposes, it will be anonymised.
- More information can be found in our privacy policy which you can find by here <https://skin-analytics.com/toc/#privacy> Individuals can opt out even if anonymised

General skincare advice

When should you worry about a mole?

- It is important to check your skin regularly for any change. You may want to ask a family member or a friend to examine your back.
- Following the ABCD-Easy rules can help you identify potentially worrying features:
 - Asymmetry - the two halves of the lesion may differ in shape
 - Border - edges of the lesion may be irregular, blurred or notched
 - Colour - the colour may be uneven
 - Diameter - report any mole larger than 6mm or a change in size or shape
 - Expert - if in doubt, check it out
- If you notice any of the changes described above, or are concerned about a mole or patch of skin for any other reason then contact your GP as soon as possible.

How can you reduce your risk of skin cancer?

- It is recognised that unprotected exposure to UV radiation can increase your risk of skin cancer. It is therefore important to be careful in the sun
- The British Association of Dermatologists (BAD) have compiled the following 'Top Sun Safety Tips'
 - Protect your skin with adequate clothing; wear a hat that protects your face, neck and ears, and a pair of UV protective sunglasses. Choose sun protective clothing (with permanently sun-protective fabric, widely available for adults and children) if you have fair skin or many moles.
 - Spend time in the shade between 11am and 3pm when it's sunny. Step out of the sun before your skin has a chance to redden or burn.
 - When choosing a sunscreen look for a high protection SPF (current recommendations are SPF 50 or 50+) to protect against UVB, and the UVA circle logo and/or 4 or 5 UVA stars to protect against UVA. Apply plenty of sunscreen 15 to 30 minutes before going out in the sun, and reapply every two hours and straight after swimming and towel-drying.
 - Keep babies and young children out of direct sunlight.
 - Sunscreens are not an alternative to clothing and shade, rather they offer additional protection. No sunscreen will provide 100% protection.
 - Do not use sunbeds.