



University Hospitals Birmingham
NHS Foundation Trust



Teledermatology

Building healthier lives

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What is Teledermatology?

The Teledermatology service is being provided at a local community centre where a qualified professional Clinical Photographer will take a series of digital photographs of your skin lesion. These photographs will be sent to a Dermatologist for remote assessment to see if you need to come into hospital for further treatment. You will not have a face-to-face consultation with a doctor at this appointment.

You may have been referred from your GP or via another route to have a single lesion photographed. If you have any more lesions than this, you will be asked to seek another route for treatment, or be re-referred for your other lesions via your GP.

The photographer will use two different devices; a camera phone which uses a computer program to analyse the lesion to see if you need to see a Dermatologist, and a professional digital camera. They will photograph a general view of the area of interest to establish the location of your lesion, and a detailed close up using a specialised lens called a Dermatoscope. The Dermatoscope allows the photographer to capture highly detailed images of your lesion, by pressing gently against the surface of the skin. This should not hurt.

Once photography is complete, your images will be securely saved and uploaded to your Electronic Patient Record, which will allow the Dermatology team to assess the report and review your clinical photographs. They will then contact you, usually within 21 working days, to see if you are required to come into hospital for further treatment.

If you are concerned about any other lesions or skin problems, please seek advice from your GP.

How long will it take and what will happen?

You will be asked to complete a short questionnaire detailing your medical history and specific details of the lesion itself. The photographer will explain what photographs need to be taken to assess your lesion before they proceed. If you have any questions about the photography, please do not hesitate to ask.

Please note you may be asked to remove jewellery or make up where necessary. Depending on the location of your lesion(s), you may also be asked to remove articles of clothing to gain a better view of the area of interest. If you are required to remove clothing to show a sensitive area of your body, you may request a chaperone.

This whole process will take approximately 30 minutes.

Do I need to give permission for photography?

Prior to proceeding with clinical photography, the Clinical Photographer will discuss the levels of consent in detail with you to ensure you are comfortable with the photographs being taken and the use of your clinical images. If you are happy to proceed, you will be required to provide written consent for clinical photography, and verbal confirmation of your consent for the Skin Analytics website. We will not take any photographs without your permission.

You may withdraw your consent at any time by contacting the Clinical Photography department. Clinical photographs that have been used to make a clinical decision cannot be deleted; however your images can be retracted and hidden from viewing on your Electronic Patient Record unless you give your permission for them to be viewed again.

Retracting your consent will not affect your treatment or any future treatment you may receive.

Please note that any photographs you have previously authorised for open publication may not be able to be withdrawn as they may already be within the public domain.

What happens after my photographs have been reviewed?

The Dermatologist may offer you further treatment and contact you and your GP with a letter about your lesion management or offer you a face-to-face or virtual appointment once they have reviewed your photographs.

If there is any uncertainty around the diagnosis you will be contacted and booked in for an urgent review with a Dermatologist.

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

You should receive a letter in the post within two to three weeks of your visit, or a telephone call requesting you to attend a face-to-face consultation.

If you have not heard from the Dermatology Team, or are concerned about changes in your lesion, please contact them on the following:

Queen Elizabeth Hospital: **0121 371 5460**

Solihull Hospital: **0121 424 5485**

In cases where an outcome cannot be determined you may be asked to:

- Be booked for a biopsy (skin sample) or the removal of the skin lesion
- Be booked for a priority face-to-face clinical appointment with a Dermatologist in hospital
- Accept an invitation to have a virtual video/telephone consultation

If the outcome states there is no indication of anything serious, you may be offered:

- Reassurance and a routine follow up appointment in Dermatology - this may require photographs to be repeated
- Reassurance by clinical letter with no follow up appointment required and be discharged

If you require non-urgent treatment, the Dermatology team may contact your GP to ask him/her to arrange treatment for you.

Does an urgent follow up appointment or surgery 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. You can do this by putting your request in writing to the Access to Health Records Department at the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust; you will be required to provide your name, date of birth, hospital registration number (if known) and the hospital where you are being treated.

For patients treated at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham

Email: **AccesstoHealthRecords@uhb.nhs.uk**

Telephone: **0121 371 8611**

For patients treated at Heartlands, Solihull or Good Hope Hospitals

Email: **bhs-tr.accesstohealthrecords@nhs.net**

Telephone: **0121 424 2967**

Feedback

We hope that your visit to your local community Teledermatology centre has been a positive one and we welcome any comments or suggestions that may improve our service to you in the future.

Please do so by emailing the Medical Illustration Service Manager:
clinicalphotography@uhb.nhs.uk

Or by telephone

Queen Elizabeth Hospital: **0121 371 2460**

Heartlands Hospital: **0121 424 3439**

For further information please refer to:

www.uhb.nhs.uk/clinical-photography.htm

Clinical Photography Contacts:

Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham
Mindelsohn Way
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 2GW
Telephone: **0121 371 2460**

Heartlands Hospital
Medical Illustration
Bordesley Green East
Birmingham
B9 5SS
Telephone: **0121 424 3439**



Do you really need to go to A&E?
Check symptoms online quickly and safely.
A **free** service for NHS patients.
uhb.nhs.uk/ask

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University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
