

Community Skin Diagnostic Hub

Patient Information Leaflet



Provided by:

Welcome

You have been scheduled for an appointment at the Community Skin Diagnostic Hub following the discussion to assess your lesion(s).

Your GP referred you to this service to ensure your lesion(s) are assessed using Teledermatology to ascertain the nature of the condition and to identify any potential skin cancer.

This Dermatology service is managed by NM Health Innovation Ltd in association with Lancashire & South Cumbria Cancer Alliance.

We are working in partnership with Skin Analytics, a company which aids in examining skin lesions using a medical device called a Dermatoscope, which takes a magnified image of lesions to allow specialist assessment.

Skin Analytics then use a specialist Medical Device called DERM, which assesses photographic images to recognise common skin conditions and also potential skin cancer.

Our Hub

The Hub is located at Buckshaw Village Surgery

Buckshaw Village Health Centre, Unity Place, Buckshaw Village, Chorley, PR7 7HZ

Referral to this Service

- Should a lesion be a suspected skin cancer, it is important that this is quickly identified to ensure the best care and treatment is available to patients.
- Unidentified skin lesions will be referred to our service for the assessment of up to a maximum of 3 lesions.
- This service doesn't assess rashes or other skin conditions such as eczema, acne, or psoriasis. These will continue to be managed by your GP practice.
- The Care Co-Ordination Team will carry out your appointment, where photographs will be taken, by a Dermatoscope device attached to a smart phone.
- Once the image(s) have been taken, they are uploaded to the specialist DERM software for analysis. DERM is an artificial intelligence program, which has been programmed to identify suspected skin cancers.
- This pathway removes the need to wait to see your GP and reduces the timescale for assessment by dermatology teams.
- If DERM does not suspect any of the images as suspected skin cancer, then they are analysed by a Consultant Dermatologist at Skin Analytics.

Not all lesions are suitable for assessment by the Skin Analytics technology called DERM - for example, those covered in hair or under nails. On the day of the clinic, the Care Co-Ordinator will identify any lesion which should be excluded from DERM analysis. The pathway will otherwise remain the same as that set out above, including taking your medical and lesion-specific history, and where possible the capturing images of each lesion but a Dermatoscope image may not be possible in all circumstances. Rather than being assessed by DERM, the report from these lesions will be assessed by a Skin Analytics Dermatologist.

What happens on the day?

Before we take the clinical photographs, the Care-Co-Ordinators will talk you through the process and agree consents. We will only take photographs with your permission.

Types of Consent

Consent for Treatment

We will ask for consent for treatment - your pictures will be used for your treatment, diagnosis, and medical records only, and will only be seen by the care team responsible for your treatment at the Hub and your GP or, if you are referred onwards, by the Dermatology Service at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals. Refusal of consent will result in you needing to be reviewed on an alternate pathway.

AI & Automated Data Processing

As DERM may make a decision to refer your case to a specialist without additional human review, you are required under GDPR to consent to what is called “Automated Data Processing”, which is where a decision is made about you without human intervention. Any decision to discharge you from the pathway without further treatment would be made by a consultant dermatologist working with Skin Analytics. If you aren't happy to consent to this automated data processing then you wouldn't be able to proceed and you would need to book an appointment with your GP instead. Please feel reassured that any decision related to any treatment required will always be made by a clinician. To read the Skin Analytics patient information leaflet, which includes more information on the AI used, visit <https://skin-analytics.com/derm-medical-device-resource-for-patients/>

Additional Use Consent

You will also be asked to give consent for additional use, like using your photographs for teaching or publication. Refusing to give consent for secondary purposes won't affect your treatment. Your clinical team will still be able to use your photographs for your medical records. Remember, you can withdraw consent for the use of your photographs for teaching or publication at any time. But please note that once images are published, they cannot be removed from the public domain.

Your Medical History

The Care Co-Ordinator will ask a number of questions relevant to the diagnosis of your skin lesion(s) being assessed. Also, some medical history questions will be asked to ensure this information is available, should your lesion(s) need to be referred as suspected skin cancer.

The Photography

The Care Co-Ordinators will take a series of photos with a secure device. One of these will be taken with a Dermatoscope, which is a special magnifying lens, which will be placed on your skin for a close-up image of the lesion. These photos will be encrypted and securely transferred, so they can be immediately analysed by DERM, the medical software developed by Skin Analytics.



Chaperones

There may be two members of the team in your appointment—but if not and you would like a chaperone, just let us know and another member of the team will join your appointment. If you would like a relative to attend with you they are welcome to do so. Please note- appointments can take up to 30 minutes and if possible it would be best for a relative to stay with any young children or toddlers during your appointment. If this is not possible we would advise you bring their favourite book or toy with them.

Interpretation Service

Should you require an interpretation service at your appointment, please inform the Hub team when you book your appointment.



How we use your data

To process your assessment, Skin Analytics securely store your medical history data and images, together with standard identification information necessary for the safe and accurate filing of the assessment report (your name, date of birth and NHS number).

The assessment report will be available for use to support any further care you may need.

The assessment report will also 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. Crucially this data is used to further improve the platform to ensure the software continues to analyse and diagnose all forms of skin cancer.

Skin Analytics ask for your consent to be able to use your data for research purposes to improve their software. Where data relating to your assessment is used

For more information about Skin Analytics Privacy Policy:



What happens after my photographs have been reviewed?

There are 3 possible outcomes once the skin lesion has been analysed:

1. If the DERM program and the Consultant Dermatologist at Skin Analytics think your lesion isn't worrying, the Hub will send a copy of the outcome to your GP to include in your medical records. If you are still concerned then please contact your GP practice. If your lesion gets worse or if new symptoms develop then please contact your GP surgery for further advice.
2. If the DERM program and the Consultant Dermatologist assess the lesion(s) as either non-cancerous or a potential lower risk Rodent Ulcer (a form of cancer), the Hub will send a copy of the outcome to your GP. Although these would not need urgent referral under the Urgent Suspected Skin Cancer Referral Pathway, you would require further treatment, therefore the Hub will refer you to Omnes (Community Dermatology) for the lesion(s) photographed to be reviewed. Omnes will make contact to arrange an appointment with you. If your lesion gets worse or if new symptoms develop then please contact your GP surgery for further advice.
3. If one or more of your lesion(s) are considered high risk (suspected skin cancer), the Hub will refer you to Lancashire Teaching Hospital (LTH) under the Urgent Suspected Skin Cancer Referral Pathway for all the lesions photographed to be reviewed. The Hub will send a copy of the outcome to your GP. A specialist from Lancashire Teaching Hospitals would make contact to arrange an appointment with you. You would get an appointment by post or over phone. On this pathway you should receive a diagnosis or have cancer ruled out within 28 days of referral.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT SHOULD THIS BE THE CASE YOU WILL NOT HAVE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH SKIN CANCER BUT YOU WOULD NEED TO BE REVIEWED URGENTLY UNDER THIS PATHWAY TO ENSURE YOU ARE ASSESSED.

In all scenarios you would not need to come back to the Community Diagnostic Hub.

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 ABCDE – easy rules can help you identify potentially worrying features:

- **A**symmetry – the two halves of the lesion may differ in shape
- **B**order – edges of the lesion may be irregular, blurred or notched
- **C**olour – the colour may be uneven
- **D**iameter – report any mole larger than 6mm or a change in size or shape
- **E**volution – changes in size, shape, colour or elevation or any new symptom such as bleeding, itching or crusting

It can be helpful to take images of your lesion to see if the lesion is changing over time as it can be more reliable than using memory alone. It can be useful to do this every few months using a phone with a camera.

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

The results should be available within 4 working days of your visit. For patients referred onwards for suspected skin cancer, we will attempt to speak to you as well as sending you notification via e mail, or letter. Please make sure we have your up-to-date telephone number and email address, so that we are able to contact you. **We will carry out this referral prior to contacting you to avoid any further delay.**

For all other outcomes, a letter will be sent to you via e-mail. Additionally your GP will be notified and you can view your records via the NHS APP directly into your GP Health Record.

Once the Hub have notified you and your GP of the outcome of your assessment, you will be discharged from the Hub, with any further follow up being through a routine referral to Omnes or an urgent onward referral to Lancashire Teaching Hospitals for suspected skin cancer.

Does an urgent referral or treatment mean I have cancer?

At this point you have not been given a confirmed diagnosis of Skin Cancer. This pathway will ensure that you receive urgent further assessment with Lancashire Teaching Hospitals to confirm or rule out potential skin cancer. On this pathway you should receive a diagnosis or have cancer ruled out within 28 days of referral.

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 11:00 – 15:00 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 SPR 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 – 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)

Your Feedback

Thank you for using our Community Skin Diagnostic Hub. We hope it has been a positive experience. We would like to know how you feel about the service to ensure we are meeting your needs and would be grateful if you would kindly complete our **Patient Experience Feedback Survey**, which you can access through the following QR code:



Your responses will help us to improve this service and all responses will be confidential. We appreciate all your feedback.

