

## Patient information

### Skin Analytics

Dermatology Department - Broadgreen Hospital

#### About the service

Your GP has referred you to our Photographic Assessment Hub. This is run by the dermatology service at Liverpool University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (LUHFT) in partnership with Skin Analytics, an external provider who will support the assessment of your skin lesion using an artificial intelligence (AI) computer programme called DERM.

DERM has been developed by Skin Analytics to recognise skin cancer and common harmless skin conditions by using photographic images and will support the Trust's commitment to urgently assess your skin lesion and direct you to the most appropriate management setting quickly.

Patients who are aged 18+ will be referred into the service for assessment of up to two skin lesions. A skin lesion is an area of skin which looks abnormal to the surrounding skin around it, such as a mole. These lesions are referred on an urgent pathway 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.

You can find out more about DERM here <https://skin-analytics.com/derm-medical-device-resource-for-patients/>

#### What happens next?

Shortly after you have seen your GP, you will receive a call from the Skin Support Worker to arrange a date and time to be seen at the photographic assessment hub, this is usually within a few working days.

If you change your mind or cannot attend the photographic assessment hub appointment; it is important that you let us know straight away.

You can contact the Skin Support Worker on **Tel: 0151 282 6170**.

If you have a mobile phone you will receive a text message containing a link to a short online questionnaire, we ask you to complete this before attending for your photographs. Completing this before your appointment means that we can see patients more quickly. However, if you do not have a mobile phone or a device to access the internet, or you cannot complete this information prior to your appointment, we will help you at the hub; If you are unable to complete this, please do ensure you arrive at your appointment slightly earlier than the time stated on your letter.

The questionnaire will ask you to confirm your details, including your name, date of birth and hospital / NHS number for identification purposes and then you will be asked some questions about your medical history.

You will be asked for your consent to have photographs taken of your skin lesion which will be used in your clinical care pathway. You will also be asked if you consent to your photographs being used for research and teaching purposes. Consent is the voluntary agreement of a person to receive medical care, treatment, or services etc.

### **What happens at my Photographic Assessment appointment?**

A healthcare assistant (HCA) will be able to answer any questions you may have about the service and obtain your consent before the assessment begins. If you have not completed the questionnaire which has been sent to you, the member of staff will then ask you about your medical history and about the skin lesion(s) being assessed (these may have been marked on your skin by your GP or photographed on your smart phone in advance). You will be asked for your consent to have new photographs taken of your skin lesion to be used in your clinical care. You will also be asked if you consent to your photographs being used for research and teaching purposes.

You can withdraw your consent for research and teaching purposes at any time by contacting LUHFT Dermatology department, again by linking in with the Skin Support Worker on **Tel:0151 282 6170**. The consent for photographs to be used for your clinical care cannot be withdrawn as your photograph forms part of your medical record.

You may be asked to remove some clothing, make-up, or jewellery to gain a better view of the skin lesion.

The photos will be taken by a smartphone camera, which uses an artificial intelligence computer programme developed by Skin Analytics, to analyse your skin lesion. Close up and general photos will be taken of the skin lesion, as well as a “dermoscopic” image, where a dermatoscope is attached to the smartphone camera and placed onto the skin. This gives a more detailed image and helps greatly with diagnosis. Only the lesion(s) that have been specified by your GP in the referral will be photographed during your appointment.

This whole process will take about 20-25 minutes.

**Please note** you will not be seeing a doctor at this appointment. Once photography is complete, your images will be securely saved and uploaded to your electronic patient record.

### **What happens after my appointment?**

DERM will assess your images and give an output on the type of skin lesion you have, and your photos will also be reviewed by a dermatologist. The dermatologist will then decide if you need to be seen by the dermatology department at a face-to-face hospital appointment for further tests, or if you can be discharged from this service.

If the lesion(s) is/are deemed benign, you will then be discharged back to your GP and sent a letter with the diagnosis and some patient information. Your GP will also receive a copy of this information.

For all other lesions, you will be given a face-to-face appointment at the dermatology clinic at Broadgreen hospital with a consultant dermatologist.

You should receive a letter communicating one of these outcomes within two weeks of your photographic appointment. If, for any reason, you are not contacted within two weeks, please call the Skin Support Worker on the number provided on your appointment letter.

### **Does an urgent follow up appointment mean I have cancer?**

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

We would like to reassure you that skin cancer is rare and most lesions are found to be benign and present no problems at all.

### **How is my data used?**

Your data and images will be stored and transferred securely by both Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Skin Analytics Ltd are separate data controllers of your information to provide direct clinical care, and who may access this data along with other authorised bodies to ensure the service is performing as expected.

In addition to using this information for your direct clinical care, if you consent, this information may also be used for teaching, research and to improve the AI skin cancer service. The Trust privacy policy can be found here <https://www.liverpoolft.nhs.uk/privacy-policy>

View Skin Analytics privacy policy here <https://skin-analytics.com/privacy-policy/>

### **Is it safe?**

There may be differences between photo hubs and face-to-face clinics. Many hospitals now offer this service for the referral of skin lesions. The service is regularly monitored and shows similar outcomes to face-to-face appointments with no evidence of patient harm.

Skin Analytics has been used within the NHS since 2020 and has helped to correctly identify a significant amount of cancers, improving the time taken to diagnose and treat patients.

### **General skin care advice**

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, or hard-to-see areas.

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.
- Evolution – 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.

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 to reduce the 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' to 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 four or five 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.

### **Feedback**

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

### **Further information**

**If you need any further information please contact  
Skin Support Worker  
Tel: 0151 282 6170**

**Author: Dermatology Department (Broadgreen)**  
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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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