

Your appointment at the Skin Lesion Clinic

Department of Dermatology

Information for Patients

Produced: March 2022

Updated: May 2024

Review: March 2025

Leaflet number: 1282 Version: 1.3

Introduction

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

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

- St Peter's Health Centre, Leicester
- Melton Mowbray Hospital
- Loughborough Hospital
- Hinckley and District Hospital
- St Luke's Treatment Centre, Market Harborough
- Coalville Hospital

We aim to book you an appointment at the hospital closest to your home. However, we may book you in at a different hospital, dependent on appointment availability.

About the service

Leicester hospitals and Skin Analytics (a research-led company), are working in partnership to deliver a dermatology service using specialist technology. The specialist technology 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.

**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

Patient questionnaire

With your appointment you will have been sent a link to a patient questionnaire. Please can we ask that you complete this before coming for your appointment. It will reduce the amount of time you need to be in the clinic. The questionnaire will take about 15 minutes to complete. If you are not able to complete the questionnaire before the appointment, one of the team will be able to complete the questionnaire with you on the day.

What happens on the day?

Please note you will not be seeing a doctor at this appointment. The staff in clinic will not be able to give you a diagnosis or answer any medical questions.

The whole process will take about 20 minutes.

At the time of your appointment you will see a member of the Outpatients Team. They 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). Staff members do not have access to your previous medical records or history.

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.

3 or more photos of each skin lesion(s) will then be taken by one of the team using a smartphone. All devices used are NHS property and no photographs are stored on the devices. 1 of these photos will be taken with a special magnifying lens, attached to the smartphone, which will be placed on your skin. The team will only be able to take photographs of the lesion(s) which you have been referred for.

These photos are sent electronically to the dermatology team using a secure link. These photos will be analysed by an AI computer program and a dermatology doctor.

The AI computer program is called DERM and is developed by Skin Analytics.

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.

Getting your permission for the process

Before taking photos 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 photos being taken and the use of your photos.

You may withdraw your consent at any time by contacting Skin Analytics. See the details at the end of this leaflet. Photos that have been used to make a treatment decision cannot be deleted. Your photos 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 3 weeks of your visit, or a phone 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 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 you need to cancel or change your appointment, please call the number of the place where your appointment is:

- General booking team: 0300 303 1563
- St Peter's Health Centre: 0116 204 7896
- Loughborough Hospital: 01509 564414
- Hinckley and District Hospital: 01455 441918
- Melton Mowbray Hospital: 01664 854811
- St Luke's Treatment Centre, Market Harborough: 01858 438185
- Coalville Hospital: 01530 467423

To withdraw consent for any photographs which have been taken to be analysed, please contact Skin Analytics: email support@skinanalytics.co.uk / Tel: 0208 064 1967

Please include your full name, date of birth and if possible your hospital number (number starting with S) or NHS number which can be found on your appointment letter.

If you have any questions, write them down here to remind you what to ask:

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل
જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।
Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk