

Patient information for Dermatology Services

About the service

Your GP has referred you urgently to our Dermatology imaging clinic at Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust (CHFT). This is run by the dermatology service in partnership with Skin Analytics, an external provider who will support the assessment of your skin lesion using an artificial intelligence (AI) computer program called DERM. DERM has been developed by Skin Analytics to recognise skin cancer and common harmless skin conditions using photographic images. It is already in use in other hospitals around the UK.

Your Primary Care Team will:

1. Refer you to CHFT who will contact you directly by telephone and/or text to book an appointment at the Telederm clinic.
2. You will also be sent a link to a short pre-appointment questionnaire to complete ahead of your appointment.

If you do not have a mobile phone or internet access, you will be able to complete this when you attend your appointment.

You have been referred to assess and investigate for skin cancer and your appointment will be a priority and you will be seen quickly, usually within a week. Please make sure you are available to attend an appointment.

It is normal to worry when you are referred urgently. Most patients are **not** found to have cancer.

If you change your mind or cannot attend the Telederm clinic appointment, it is important that you contact booking team to arrange an alternative appointment.

You can contact the Fast Track booking team on 01484 355394.

At the CHFT teledermatology Imaging clinic our team will:

1. Give you time to complete the pre-appointment questionnaire if you have not been able to complete it before your appointment date.
2. Ask you some questions relating to your medical history and your skin problem.
3. Ask you to confirm your consent to have photographs taken of the lesion and for the photographs to be assessed by the DERM AI program.
4. Take photographs of the lesion using a smartphone camera and a special camera called a dermatoscope.
5. Please be aware we may need to ask you to remove some clothing, make-up or jewellery to get a better view of the lesion. To support this, your appointment will be in a private room.
6. The photograph process will take approximately 20 minutes.

Please note that it may not be possible to photograph some lesions using the dermatoscope. In this scenario you will be directed for an appointment with the dermatology medical team.

After your photos are taken:

The DERM AI program will analyse the images of your skin lesion and give a suspected diagnosis. This could be:

1. Discharged back to your GP if your lesion is judged to not be cancer. You will receive a telephone call or a letter confirming your results.
2. Your images may be referred for further review by the dermatology medical team. This does **not** mean that you have cancer, your images may need to be reviewed for a number of reasons.

If your photos require further review:

1. You will be seen by the dermatology medical team either, on the same day, or booked in for an appointment on another day.
2. If necessary, a small skin sample (biopsy) or removal of the lesion will be taken.
3. If a small surgical procedure is required, please be aware that you may be in the department for 3 to 4 hours.
4. The dermatology medical team could also decide that you do not need further input and you will be discharged back to your GP.

Is it safe?

Yes. The safety and effectiveness of the artificial intelligence computer programme (DERM) has been demonstrated in several studies. More information can be found here - <https://skin-analytics.com/performance/>

DERM has been used in the NHS since 2020 and has now correctly identified a significant number of skin cancers.

Although DERM is performing to a very high standard, it is important to note that no clinician or test is ever 100% accurate. We recommend that all patients continue to monitor their skin for concerning changes.

How is my data used?

Skin Analytics is the data controller for the data you provide in the patient questionnaire, and for the photographs that have been taken in the Photo Hub clinic. This is so that they can process your assessment of your lesion(s).

To process your assessment, Skin Analytics securely store photos of your lesion(s) and details of your medical conditions, together with identification information necessary for the safe and accurate filing of the assessment report (your name, date of birth and NHS number).

At the end of the assessment process Skin Analytics will share a copy of the questionnaire, photographs and images, and their assessment report with us. On receipt we will upload this onto your Electronic Patient Record and it will form part of your medical record.

The assessment report may be reviewed for quality assurance purposes by Skin Analytics, CHFT or other authorised bodies.

General skin care advice

It is important to check your skin regularly for any changes. You may want to ask a family member or a friend to examine your back or hard-to-see areas.

Following the ABCDE rules can help you identify potentially worrying features:

- **Asymmetry** – the two halves of the lesion may differ in shape
- **Border** – the edges of the lesion may be irregular, blurred or notched
- **Colour** – the colour may be uneven with more than one area of pigmentation
- **Diameter** – report any mole larger than 6mm or one that is changing in size or shape
- **Evolution** – changes in size, shape, colour or elevation, or any new symptoms (such as bleeding, itching or crusting)

It can be helpful to take photographs of your lesion to see if it is changing over time. It can be useful to do this regularly using a camera phone and a size marker (such as a 5 pence piece) placed next to the lesion.

If you notice any of the changes described above or are concerned about a mole or patch of skin for any other reason, you should contact your GP practice 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:

- Cover your skin with adequate clothing and wear a hat that protects your face, neck and ears. If you have fair skin or many moles, wearing sun protective fabrics is recommended.
- 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 - ideally SPF 50 or 50+. Apply plenty of sunscreen 15 to 30 minutes before going out in the sun, taking care to reapply every two hours and straight after swimming or towel-drying.
 - Sunscreens are not an alternative to clothing and shade, rather they offer additional protection. No sunscreen will provide 100% protection.
- Keep babies and young children out of direct sunlight.
- Do not use sunbeds.

If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Dermatology

Telephone: 01422 224304

cah-tr.dermatologysecs@nhs.net

www.cht.nhs.uk

If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

ਚ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਚੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ,
ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور فارمیٹ یا زبان میں درکار ہوں، تو
برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

"إذا احتجت الحصول على هذه المعلومة بشكل مغاير أو مترجمة إلى لغة مختلفة فيرجى منك الاتصال بالقسم
المذكور أعلاه"