



Dermatology Imaging Clinic – Patient Information Leaflet

Referral to the service

Your GP has referred you urgently to the Dermatology imaging clinic at Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (BTHFT). This clinic is run by the dermatology service in partnership with Skin Analytics.

The referral is for you to be seen and investigated for skin cancer. Please make sure you are available to attend an appointment within two weeks of seeing your GP. It is normal to worry when you are referred urgently. Most patients are **not** found to have cancer.

You will be sent a link by text 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 the questionnaire when you attend your appointment.

If you change your mind or cannot attend the Dermatology imaging clinic appointment, it is important that you contact the Fast Track booking team to cancel or arrange an alternative appointment. You can contact the Fast Track booking team on 01274 382540. They can be contacted Monday – Friday from 8.00am until 5.00pm but not on Bank Holidays.

About the service

Skin Analytics is an external service 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.

DERM uses a high-quality photograph of your skin lesion, taken with a special magnifying camera lens called a dermatoscope. This photograph is assessed electronically to help identify the lesion and what the appropriate next steps should be for your care. You can find out more about DERM [here](#).

At the BTHFT Dermatology 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.

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.
- The photograph process will take approximately 20 minutes.
- It may not be possible to photograph some lesions using the dermatoscope. If this is the case you will be seen in a same-day appointment with the dermatology medical team.

After your photographs are taken:

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

1. Discharged back to your GP if your lesion is judged to not be cancer and you will receive either a telephone call or a letter confirming your results.
2. Your images may be sent 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 photographs require further review:

1. You will be seen on the same day, face-to-face, by the dermatology medical team.
2. If necessary, a small skin sample will be taken or the lesion removed.

Please be aware that if a small surgical procedure is required, you may be in the department for up to 4 hours.

Please note that in some cases, due to the location or size of the lesion or appointment availability the medical team may give you an appointment for another day to return for a skin sample to be taken.

The dermatology medical team could also decide that you do not need treatment and you will be discharged back to your GP.

Is DERM AI safe?

Yes. The safety and effectiveness of the DERM AI program has been demonstrated in several studies. More information can be found [here](#).

The DERM AI program 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?

Your identifying information which includes your name, date of birth and NHS number and photographs of your lesion(s) will be securely stored and transferred by both Bradford Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Skin Analytics.

They may access this data, along with other authorised bodies to make sure that the service is performing as expected.

At your dermatology imaging clinic appointment you can also choose to give consent for your information to be used for teaching and research purposes.

The Private Policy for BTHFT can be found [here](#).

The Private Policy for Skin Analytics can be found [here](#).

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 or blurred
- **Colour** – the colour may be uneven with more than one area of pigmentation
- **Diameter** – report any mole larger than 6mm
- **Evolution** – changes in size, shape, colour, if it becomes more raised 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 have compiled the following Top Sun Safety Tips to protect your skin:

- Cover your skin and wear a hat that protects your face, neck and ears.
- Spend time in the shade between 11.00am and 3.00pm 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 Sun Protection Factor (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.

People with hearing and speech difficulties

You can contact us using the Relay UK app. Textphone users will need to dial 18001 before the number to be contacted.

Accessible Information

If you need this information in another format or language, please ask a member of staff.

Smoking

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is a smoke-free organisation. You are not permitted to smoke or use e-cigarettes in any of the hospital buildings or grounds.