

Lesion Photo Clinics – Message for BHR GPs

From 1st September 2024 DMC will introduce a new Lesion Photo Clinic to the BHR service.

This is an internal pathway improvement in which patients who are referred by with a single lesion (routine referral and excludes 2ww) will be invited to a local clinic to have their images taken. In line with secondary care medical photography models – patients will then be triaged remotely by a Dermatology clinician. The outcome of which can be a F2F appointment, direct booking into minor surgery if required, onward referral to secondary care or discharge back to the GP.

This change will see an improvement to the pathway as patients can be booked for direct minor surgery directly or discharged back to GP faster. If onward referral is required, this will also be done faster.

A present DMC aim to see and treat patients within 4 weeks of referral. This KPI will continue to apply to patients who are invited to the LPC, and they will be expected to have their pictures taken and have treatment commenced within 4 weeks of GP referral.

What this means for BHR GPs

There will be no change to the way currently GPs refer, only those patients referred with single lesion who are suitable for invitation to the LPC, will be contacted to attend the LPC clinic where further images and their history will be recorded. Patients will be provided with a FAQ too.

Lesion Photo Clinics (LPC) information for Clinicians

Introduction

Our new innovative Lesion Photo Clinics will primarily address patients waiting for treatment for Basal Cell Carcinomas (low risk) through delivering lesion clinical services. Patients are referred to our Lesion Photo Clinics by their GP or a Dermatologist for an assessment of their skin lesion(s).

In order for us to ensure our patients receive the most appropriate care, our Lesion Photo Clinic Practitioners (LPCP) will record templated history on SystemOne and take images of the lesion(s).

Following this, our team of Consultant Dermatologists assess the lesion history and photographs to determine the next steps in the patient's treatment pathway.

Please note, Lesion Photo Clinic Practitioners are not doctors; they are trained only to record templated history and take appropriate lesion photographs for our Dermatologists to review remotely.

Benefits of Lesion Photo Clinics

- Prevents unsuitable referrals being sent to secondary care
- Provides additional capacity to deliver Dermatology services
- Reduces current waiting times and access to specialist care
- Relieves pressures by providing direct access and advice to primary care clinicians
- Increases overall patients' satisfaction
- Harness new technology, in particular tele-dermatology, digital referral platforms, and the use of remote consultations to reduce the need for unnecessary hospital attendances

Service Exclusions

This service is not considered clinically appropriate for patients who have or are

suspected to have suspicious skin lesions falling under the 2WW pathway (e.g., MM and SCC). The following patients are unsuitable to be seen via the Lesion Photo Clinics

pathway:

- Children under 16 years of age
- Lesion(s) on the genital area
- Rashes
- Bed bound and home care patients