

Community Skin Lesion/Mole Clinic

Patient Information Leaflet

Provided by: SNEE ICB & GPPC & Skin Analytics

Welcome

You've been scheduled for an appointment at a SNEE Skin Lesion/Mole Clinic to examine the mark on your skin.

Our hubs are managed by GPPC in association with Skin Analytics, a company that aids in examining your skin lesion(s)/mole(s) using a unique medical device called DERM.

DERM, created by Skin Analytics, uses photographic images to recognise potential skin cancer and common harmless skin conditions.

This pathway removes the need to wait to see your GP and reduces the timescale for assessment by dermatology teams. Should a lesion/mole be a suspected skin cancer, it is important that this is quickly identified to ensure the best care and treatment is available to patients.

Here is some key information to know before your appointment.

About this service

- SNEE ICB, GPPC and Skin Analytics have teamed up to deliver a Dermatology service that will assess your skin lesion(s)/mole(s) and provide the best and safest treatment possible.
- If you're over 18 and there's a suspicion of skin cancer, you may be referred to our service for the assessment of up to a maximum of 2 lesions/moles.
- This service doesn't assess rashes or other skin conditions such as eczema, acne, psoriasis, or skin tags. These will continue to be managed by your GP practice.
- A fully trained Healthcare Assistant will take your photographs using a smartphone device and dermatoscope.
- Once the image(s) have been taken, they are uploaded to the specialist DERM software for analysis. DERM is an artificial intelligence program, which has been programmed to identify suspected skin cancers. Images that DERM does not recognise as suspected skin cancer are analysed by a Consultant Dermatologist.

What happens on the day?

Before we take the clinical photographs, the Healthcare Assistant will talk you through the process and discuss the levels of consent. We'll only take photographs with your permission.

Types of Consent

Consent for Treatment

We will ask for consent for treatment - your pictures will be used for your treatment, diagnosis, and medical records only, and will only be seen by the care team responsible for your treatment at the Skin Lesion/Mole Clinic and your GP or, if you are referred onwards, by the Dermatology Service at East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust. Refusal of consent will result in you needing to be reviewed on an alternate pathway.

AI & Automated Data Processing

As DERM may make a decision to refer your case to a specialist without additional human review, you are required under GDPR to consent to what is called "Automated Data Processing", which is where a decision is made about you without human intervention. Any decision to discharge you from the pathway without further treatment would be made by a consultant dermatologist working with Skin Analytics.

If you aren't happy to consent to this automated data processing then you wouldn't be able to proceed and you would need to book an appointment with your GP instead. Please feel reassured that any decision related to any treatment required will always be made by a clinician.

To read the Skin Analytics patient information leaflet, which includes more information on the AI used, visit <https://skin-analytics.com/derm-medical-device-resource-for-patients/>

Additional Use Consent

You'll also be asked to give consent for additional use, like using your photographs for teaching or publication.

Refusing to give consent for additional purposes won't affect your treatment. Your clinical team will still be able to use your photographs for your medical records.

Remember, you can withdraw consent for the use of your photographs for teaching or publication at any time. But please note that once images are published, they cannot be removed from the public domain.

Your Medical History

The Healthcare Assistant will then ask about your medical history and any questions specific to the skin lesion(s)/mole(s) being assessed.

The Photography

The Healthcare Assistant will take a series of photos with a secure mobile device. One of these will be taken with a special magnifying lens called a dermatoscope, which will be placed on your skin for a close-up image of the lesion/mole.

These photos will be encrypted and securely transferred, so they can be immediately analysed by DERM, the medical device developed by Skin Analytics.

There are 3 possible outcomes once the skin lesion/mole has been analysed by DERM and a Consultant Dermatologist:

1. If the lesion/mole is considered high risk (suspected skin cancer), you'll be referred to the Urgent Suspected Skin Cancer Clinic at East Suffolk & North Essex NHS Foundation Trust. You should be seen within 2 weeks of your referral date.
2. If your lesion/mole requires treatment or a non-urgent referral, then your GP will receive your diagnosis and decide the next step of your care. Your GP practice would contact you about any next steps.
3. If your lesion/mole isn't worrying, then your GP will receive your diagnosis and you will be discharged to their care. If you're still concerned, or you'd like to discuss your diagnosis, please contact your GP practice.

If an urgent referral is required, you will be contacted within 7 working days of your visit. Please make sure your GP practice has your up-to-date telephone number so that they are able to contact you.

Not all lesions/moles are suitable for assessment by the Skin Analytics technology called DERM - for example, those covered in hair or under nails. On the day of the clinic, the Healthcare Assistant will identify any lesion/mole which should be excluded from DERM analysis. The pathway will otherwise remain the same as that set out above, including taking your medical and lesion-specific history, and where possible the capturing of two types of images of each lesion/mole. Rather than being assessed by DERM, the report from these cases will be assessed by a Skin Analytics Dermatologist. You will be contacted usually within 7 working days with the outcome of your visit.

Chaperones

If you would like a chaperone, just let us know. A member of staff should be available for your session, but if you would prefer a relative to attend with you, they are welcome to do so.

How we use your data

To process your assessment, Skin Analytics securely store your medical history data and images, together with standard identification information necessary for the safe and accurate filing of the assessment report (your name, date of birth and NHS number).

The assessment report will be available for use to support any further care you may need.

The assessment report will also 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 lesion(s)/mole(s) assessed.

Skin Analytics ask for your consent to be able to use your data for research purposes to improve their service. Where data relating to your assessment is used for research purposes, it will be anonymised.

Skin Analytics Privacy Policy can be found here: <https://skin-analytics.com/privacy-policy/>

Feedback

We would really like to have feedback on your experience of this service and how it has worked for you. We may contact you by letter, text or phone in the next 4 weeks to ask for feedback.

Notes

Use this section to make any notes you need to during your appointment.