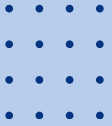


# Community Skin Hub



**NHS**



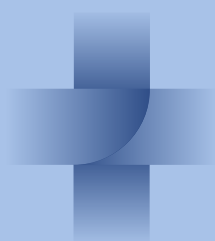
## Patient Information Leaflet

Provided by :



**NHS**  
Lancashire and  
South Cumbria  
Cancer Alliance

# WELCOME



You have been scheduled for an appointment at the Community Skin Hub, following assessment of your lesion(s) during your telephone call with a member of our team.

## About the service

The NHS have developed a number of services to aid in the earlier diagnosis of all cancers. This service has been developed to carry out screening for patients who have concerns about skin lesions.

Skin lesions are areas of your skin that are different from the skin around them. They are very common and may be the result of an injury or damage to your skin such as that caused by sunburn. **The majority of skin lesions are noncancerous and harmless (benign)**, but they can be a sign of something more serious.

The Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Health Board (ICB) have introduced this service to allow patients with lesions to be rapidly assessed through the use of Teledermatology (the use of specialist cameras to image skin conditions which are reviewed remotely by specialist dermatology clinicians).

This service is provided by NM Health Innovation Ltd & The ISSA Group (two local GP practice groups). Our Health Care team will take photographic medical images of your skin lesions, which will then be assessed by Clinical Specialists working within the ICB Cancer Alliance to identify the nature of the lesions and also identify suspected skin cancers. If onward treatment or care is necessary this will be arranged through this service. For lesions that do not require treatment or care, patients will be discharged back to their GP.

### Your Hub

Your Hub is located at  
Fatima Health Centre

Email us for  
more info



[skinhub@nhs.net](mailto:skinhub@nhs.net)



Fatima Health Centre, 228 Garstang Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9QB

# Before your appointment



You will be sent an e-mail, SMS or letter with a link to a questionnaire to complete prior to your appointment. This will ask you to answer questions relating to your skin and the lesions together with some medical questions. It is really important that you complete this before your appointment. If you have any difficulties please let us know on the day of your appointment.

## What happens on the day

Please aim to arrive for your appointment before your time slot to allow for parking and check in.

On arrival - please check in with a receptionist at Issa Medical Centre on the ground floor and inform them you have an appointment at the Community Skin Hub.

You will be checked into our system and sent to a separate waiting area on the 1st floor, which will be near the clinic room (turn left out of the lift or left when you reach the 1st floor)

Please make the receptionist or the Skin Hub Team aware of any specific requirements you may need when you arrive and we will endeavour to accommodate them.

**One of our Medical Photography Health Care Team will carry out your appointment.**

**At times there may be two of our team in the room, with one of the team carrying out the photography and another capturing and inputting the information you give onto our medical systems.**

# During your appointment

Your Health Care Imager will firstly confirm your consents for treatment and for the use of your images. We will then check you are happy with the completion of your questionnaire. We may need to ask further medical questions and questions about your lesion(s) to ensure information is available for the Clinical assessment and also if an onward referral is needed.

After this, we will take a series of images using a specialist medical device called a Dermatoscope (used to magnify and illuminate the skin lesion) which will be placed onto your skin and images captured using an iPhone. These images are instantly uploaded into a NHS assured software named PATHPOINT. No images are stored on the iPhone. These images are then available for full clinical assessment by the Specialist Clinical Team.



## Chaperones

There may be two members of the team in your appointment, but if not and you would like a chaperone, just let us know and another member of the team will join your appointment. If you would like a relative to attend with you, they are welcome to do so. Please note, appointments can take up to 30 minutes and if possible it would be best for a relative to stay with any young children or toddlers during your appointment. If this is not possible, we would advise you to bring their favourite book or toy with them.



## Interpretation Services



Should you require an interpretation service at your appointment, please inform the Skin Hub team when you book your appointment.

# What happens after my appointment?

Once the images have been taken they will be reviewed by the Integrated Care Board (ICB's) Specialist Clinical Team.

They will provide the following possible outcomes

If the Clinical Team assess the lesion as harmless/benign and not requiring any form of treatment, they will advise you of this outcome (by email or by letter) and will also send a copy of the outcome to your GP, to include in your medical records. If you are still concerned, or if your lesion gets worse (or new symptoms develop), please contact your GP Surgery for further advice.

The Clinical Team may assess the lesion(s) as a condition that, although not serious and not cancer, still requires treatment. This treatment may be with your GP, or with the Community Dermatology provider (OMNES) or at your local Hospital. This outcome would include lesions identified as Rodent Ulcer's (BCC), which is a form of cancer, but does not require urgent referral under the Urgent Suspected Skin Cancer Referral Pathways. You will be advised by email or letter, and a copy of the outcome to your GP to include in your medical records. Omnes or the hospital you are referred to for onward treatment will make contact with you to arrange an appointment. If your lesion gets worse or if new symptoms develop then please contact your GP surgery for further advice.

The clinical Team may assess one or more of your lesion(s) as high risk, and a suspected skin cancer.

**NOTE THIS WILL BE A SUSPECTED DIAGNOSIS ONLY AT THIS STAGE**

You will be referred to the hospital you identified in your appointment with the Skin Hub under the Urgent Suspected Skin Cancer Referral Pathway for all the lesions photographed to be reviewed. You will be advised by e mail or letter - and a copy of the outcome will be sent to your GP . The Hospital team will make contact to arrange an appointment with you where further tests and/or treatment will be carried out On this pathway you should receive a confirmed diagnosis or have skin cancer ruled out within 28 days of referral.



# When will I find out the outcome?

You will be notified of the outcome within 7 working days of your visit to the Community Skin Hub - with any onward referrals carried out within this time frame. All outcomes will be sent to you via e-mail or letter, therefore, please make sure we have your up to date email address and home address. Once the Hub have notified you and your GP of the outcome of your assessment, you will be discharged from our service with any further follow up being with either ONMES or the Hospital you have been referred to for treatment.



## Does an urgent referral mean I have cancer?

It is **IMPORTANT TO NOTE** that if even after your images have been assessed as Suspected Skin Cancer by the Specialist Clinicians that **YOU WILL NOT HAVE A CONFIRMED DIAGNOSED OF SKIN CANCER AT THIS STAGE.**

You will be referred under the Urgent Suspected Skin Cancer Referral Pathway for further urgent assessment and treatment which will look to confirm or rule this out.

**Most people will not have cancer, but if you do, early diagnosis and treatment are important.**

# Can every skin condition be assessed at the Skin Hub?

Not all skin conditions are suitable for assessment at the Skin Hub, which is why we will contact you by phone initially to see if your condition is suitable for assessment at the Hub.

Additionally - there is a limit of two lesions that can be imaged at your appointment and these must be the lesions that were assessed during your initial screening call with our Service.

Regrettably we can not image lesions that have not been referred by your GP practice - or ones that have not been pre screened.

## Conditions not suitable for assessment at the Skin Hub include:

- This service doesn't assess rashes or other skin conditions such as eczema, acne, or psoriasis. These will continue to be managed by your GP practice.
- Lesions on certain parts of your body, including the soles of feet, palms of hands and genitalia are not suitable for assessment.
- Infected lesions and/or lesions that are open (wet/bleeding/oozing) are not able to be imaged.
- A maximum of 2 lesions can be assessed, so if you are concerned about more than 2 lesions, we will refer you back to your GP for assessment.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND AN APPOINTMENT ARRANGED AT THE SKIN HUB, YOU WILL BE DISCHARGED FROM THE SERVICE AND REFERRED BACK TO YOUR GP**

# How can you reduce your 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**':

- Protect your skin with adequate clothing, wear a hat that protects your face, neck and ears, and a pair of UV protective sunglasses
- Choose sun protective clothing (with permanently sun protective fabric, widely available for adults and children) if you have fair skin or many moles
- Spend time in the shade between 11:00 – 15:00 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 (current recommendations are SPR 50 or 50+) to protect against UVB, and the UVA circle logo and/or 4 or 5 UVA stars to protect against UVA
- Apply plenty of sunscreen 15 – 30 minutes before going out in the sun, and reapply every two hours and straight after swimming and towel-drying
- Keep babies and young children out of direct sunlight
- Sunscreens are not an alternative to clothing and shade, rather they offer additional protection (no sunscreen will provide 100% protection)



# When to consider contacting your GP

It is important to check your skin regularly for any change. You may want to ask a family member or a friend to examine parts of your body you cannot see.

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

- Asymmetry – the two halves of the lesion may differ in shape
- Border – edges of the lesion may be irregular, blurred or notched
- Colour – the colour may be uneven
- Diameter – report any mole larger than 6mm or a change in size or shape
- Evolution – changes in size, shape, colour or elevation or any new symptom such as bleeding, itching or crusting

It can be helpful to take images of your lesion to see if the lesion is changing over time as it can be more reliable than using memory alone. It can be useful to do this every few months using a phone with a camera.

If you notice any of the changes described above or are concerned about a mole or patch of skin for any other reason then contact your GP as soon as possible. Do not use sunbeds

## Useful Information



The British Skin Foundation are a UK charity that fund research into all types of skin diseases, including skin cancer. They are supported by the British Association of Dermatologists.



Cancer Research UK is the world's leading cancer charity dedicated to saving lives through research, influence and information.



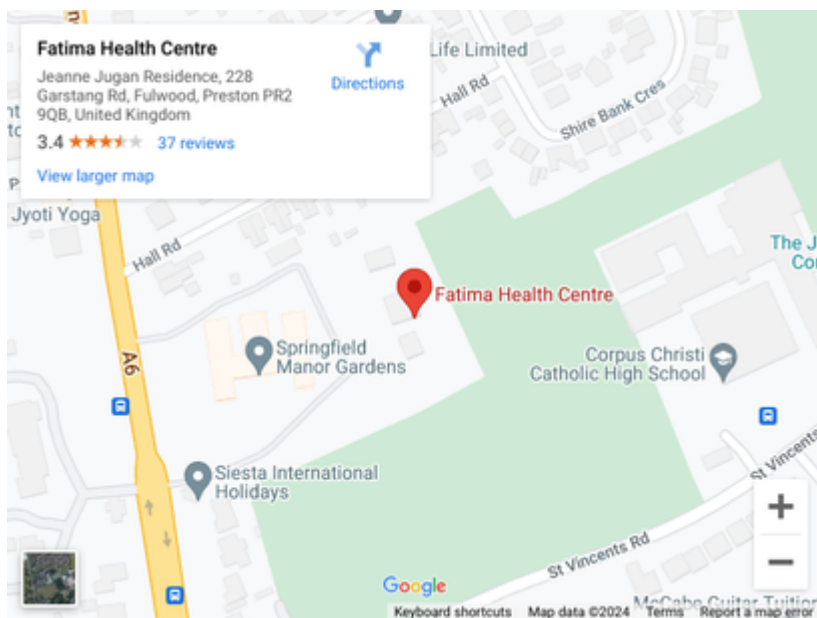
Macmillan Cancer Support provides specialist health care, information and support to people affected by cancer.



# How to find the Community Skin Hub Clinic



The Clinic is located at:  
**Fatima Health Centre, 228 Garstang Road, Fulwood,  
Preston, PR2 9QB**



We look forward to seeing you at your appointment.

# Your Feedback

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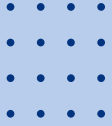
Thank you for using our Community Skin Hub. We hope it has been a positive experience.

We would like to know how you feel about the service to ensure we are meeting your needs and would be grateful if you would kindly complete our Patient Experience Feedback Survey, which you can access through the following QR code:



## Patient Experience Feedback Survey

**Your responses will help us to improve this service and all responses will be confidential. We appreciate all your feedback.**



# Community Skin Hub



Provided by :