

# Your visit to the Dermatology Clinic

This leaflet has been produced with and for patients

If you would like this information in **another language, audio, Braille, Easy Read, or large print** please ask a member of staff. You can ask someone to contact us on your behalf.

**Any complaints, comments, concerns, or compliments** please speak to your doctor or nurse, or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01227 78 31 45, or email [ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net)

**Patients should not bring in large sums of money or valuables into hospital.** Please note that East Kent Hospitals accepts no responsibility for the loss or damage to personal property, unless the property had been handed in to Trust staff for safe-keeping.

**Further patient leaflets** are available via the East Kent Hospitals web site [www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/patientinformation](http://www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/patientinformation)

## Information for patients

You have been seen by the clinical nurse specialist/doctor today and been diagnosed with

\_\_\_\_\_

You are being referred to our surgical colleague/team who specialises in this area:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place:** \_\_\_\_\_



## What happens next?

You will receive an appointment to meet them for a consultation. This is where the doctor will examine you and discuss the finer details of further treatment. This is also an opportunity for you to ask questions such as:

- will I have a local or general anaesthetic?
- will I need to stay overnight?
- will I have to have someone to bring me to the hospital and take me home?
- how long will I be incapacitated for after my operation?

**Please note it is unlikely that SURGERY will be performed at your FIRST appointment**

## What happens after my first appointment?

Once you have seen the doctor, a date will be set for you to have your procedure. You may need a preoperative assessment visit to check your general health before surgery.

Once your surgery has been completed, you may also need to be seen by the dermatology team.

## Will I need a follow-up after my procedure?

Each patient's needs are assessed and a follow-up plan is agreed. A follow-up appointment may not be needed for every patient.

Patients may need a follow-up:

- For **lower risk skin cancers and pre-cancers**: once only and then discharge.
- For a **range of skin invasive skin cancers**: every three to four months for one year, then every six months for two years. Some patients may have an annual appointment at three years.
- For **melanomas less than 0.8mm**: every three to four months for approximately one year.
- For **melanomas more than 0.8mm and above**: every three to four months for three years, then every six months for two years.
- Some patients may need life-long follow-up.

## My lesion has changed, what should I do?

If you notice a significant change in the growth rate, size, or behaviour of a lesion, please contact the Macmillan Skin Cancer Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) team via the Cancer Care Line on 01227 86 86 66.