



University Hospitals  
Bristol and Weston  
NHS Foundation Trust

Patient information service  
**Dermatology**



# Clinical Photography Teledermatology with Skin Analytics





# Welcome

Thank you for attending Clinical Photography in connection with the mark on your skin. You and your Doctor (GP) have discussed a lesion on your body and decided that you would like a Dermatologist (skin specialist) to look at it and give an opinion.

This clinic is run in partnership with Skin Analytics, an external company who will support the assessment of your skin lesion using a specially developed computer program called DERM. DERM has been developed by Skin Analytics to recognise skin cancer and common harmless skin conditions. This software uses photographic images to identify types of skin cancer and common harmless skin conditions,.

Here is some useful information to know about the service before you are seen.

## About the service:

- Your photographs will be taken by a qualified clinical photographer, using both a smart phone device and a digital SLR camera.
- UHBW and Skin Analytics are working in partnership to deliver a Dermatology service which will assess whether your skin lesion needs to be seen by a Dermatologist for further investigation.
- Patients who are over the age of 18 will be referred into the service, usually by their GP, for assessment of up to two lesions when there is a suspicion of skin cancer.
- This service will not be able to assess rashes or other skin conditions such as eczema, acne or psoriasis.

## What happens on the day?

### Consent

- Before we take the clinical photographs, the clinical photographer will explain the process and discuss the levels of consent. If you are happy to proceed, you will be asked to consent for clinical photography, and consent for the Skin Analytics website. We will not take any photographs without your permission.
- We will normally only ask for Consent level 1 - Clinical photography for health records only. You will be asked to sign a consent form or give verbal consent for your photographs to be used for your treatment, diagnosis and medical records only. The photographs will only be seen by the care team responsible for your treatment.

## Consent for Secondary Purposes

- You may be asked to sign consent for secondary use, secondary purposes refers to your photographs/video recordings being used for teaching or publication.
- Consent level 2 Teaching, UHBW is a large teaching hospital and it can be useful for your photographs to be used to teach nurses and doctors in training or to educate clinical staff on certain medical conditions or procedures.
- Consent level 3 Publication. Consent to publication refers to your images/recordings being published. For example, to illustrate an article in a medical journal or to be used in a patient information leaflet. Your clinical team will explain how they would like to use the photographs and you can decide if you wish to consent to this. Please be aware that the images may be viewed by medical professionals as well as members of the general public, many medical journals have online versions on the internet.
- Refusal to consent to secondary purposes will not affect your treatment. Your clinical team will still be able to use your photographs for your medical records only.
- Patients have the right to withdraw consent for use of their recording for teaching or publication at any time. The recording remains part of the patient confidential medical record. Please note images consented for publication can only be removed from our system and cannot be called back once published in the public domain.

## Medical History Information Sheet

- The Clinical Photographer will then ask about your medical history and any questions specific to the skin lesion being assessed.

## The Photography

- The photographer will take a series of photographs on a secure device. One of these photos will be taken with a special magnifying lens, attached to the device, which will be placed on your skin. This gives a close up image of the lesion.
- These photos will be encrypted and electronically transferred, by secure means, so they can be immediately analysed by a computer program (called DERM) that has been developed by Skin Analytics to recognise skin cancer and common harmless skin conditions from images.
- DERM will provide a recommendation of whether or not the lesion needs to be seen by the UHBW Dermatology department for further investigation. Images will also be reviewed by a Dermatologist.
- In addition, images of your lesion will be taken by the team using a professional camera, and these images will support the Dermatologists when assessing your case.
- You will be contacted by UHBW within the next few weeks to let you know the outcome of your visit.

Not all lesions 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 professional will identify any lesion 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 images of each lesion. Rather than being assessed by DERM, the report from these cases will be assessed by UHBW Dermatologists and you will be contacted within the next few weeks to let you know the outcome.

# Chaperones

If you would like a chaperone then please ask. Nursing staff should be available during the session.

## How is your data used?

### 1. Skin Analytics photos:

To process your assessment, we 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 UHBW to use appropriately in support of any further care you may need.

The assessment report will 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 lesions assessed.

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

More information can be found in our privacy policy which you can find by here:

<https://skin-analytics.com/toc/#privacy>.



## **2. Professional Camera photos:**

Our files are stored and accessed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR 2018.) Your photographs are named and transferred to our image database for permanent storage as part of a hospital medical record. Your images are accessible only by the clinical photography team and clinical staff involved in your care.



# Access to your Health Records

To access your medical records, please contact the access to health records team:

**Email:** [AHRTeam@uhbw.nhs.uk](mailto:AHRTeam@uhbw.nhs.uk)

## **Or write to:**

Access to Health Records Team Level 9  
Bristol Royal Infirmary  
Upper Maudlin Street  
Bristol  
BS2 8HW

## **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

## Notes

As well as providing clinical care, our Trust has an important role in research. This allows us to discover new and improved ways of treating patients.

While under our care, you may be invited to take part in research. To find out more please visit: [www.uhbw.nhs.uk](http://www.uhbw.nhs.uk)

Help us prevent the spread of infection in hospital. Please make sure your hands are clean. Wash and dry them thoroughly/use the gel provided. If you have been unwell in the last 48 hours please consider whether your visit is essential.

Smoking is the primary cause of preventable illness and premature death. For support in stopping smoking contact **NHS Smokefree on 0300 123 1044.**

Drinkline is the national alcohol helpline. If you're worried about your own or someone else's drinking, you can call this free helpline in complete confidence. **Drinkline on 0300 123 1110.**

To access all patient leaflets and information please go to the following address:  
<http://foi.avon.nhs.uk/>

**Bristol switchboard: 0117 923 0000**  
**Weston switchboard: 01934 636 363**  
**[www.uhbw.nhs.uk](http://www.uhbw.nhs.uk)**



For an interpreter or signer please contact the telephone number on your appointment letter.



For this leaflet in large print or PDF format, please email [patientleaflets@uhbw.nhs.uk](mailto:patientleaflets@uhbw.nhs.uk).

