

Skin Analytics: Patient Information Leaflet (PIL)

As part of your primary care appointment your clinician will use the Skin Analytics service to support the assessment of your skin lesion(s). Here is some useful information to know about the service before you are seen.

About the service

- Your GP practice and Skin Analytics are working in partnership to deliver a dermatology service which will assess whether a skin lesion(s) needs to be seen by a dermatologist for further investigation.
- The service may be used in the care of patients over the age of 18 for assessment of up to 3 lesions where there is a suspicion of skin cancer.
- Not all lesions are appropriate for this service for example those obscured by hair or on genitals. At the assessment the healthcare professional will confirm that the lesion is appropriate prior to conducting the assessment.
- This service also won't be able to assess rashes or other skin conditions such as eczema, acne or psoriasis.

What happens on the day?

- Your clinician will be able to answer any questions you have about the service and take your consent before the assessment begins.
- They will then ask about your medical history and questions specific to the skin lesion(s) being assessed.
- Images of each lesion will then be taken on a smartphone by your clinician. One of these photos will be taken with a special magnifying lens, attached to the smartphone, which will be placed on your skin.
- These photos will be encrypted and electronically transferred, by secure means, to be immediately analysed by a computer program (called DERM) that has been developed by Skin Analytics to recognise skin cancer and common benign skin conditions from images of skin lesions.
- DERM will provide a recommendation of whether or not the lesion(s) needs to be seen by a Dermatologist for further investigation.
 - If DERM recommends an appointment with a dermatologist, your clinician may explain that to you immediately, or organise a call with your GP.
 - If DERM does not recommend an appointment with a dermatologist, or if it isn't able to assess the lesion(s) then a Dermatologist employed by Skin Analytics will review your case and provide a recommendation to your clinician within two working days.
- Your practice will explain how they will get in touch with you about results.

How is your data used?

- To process your assessment, we securely store your medical history data and images, together with standard identification information necessary for safe and accurate filing of the assessment report (your name, date of birth and NHS number).
- The assessment report will be available for your GP Practice to use appropriately in support of any further care you may need.
- 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](https://skin-analytics.com/privacy) which you will find by visiting <https://skin-analytics.com/privacy>.

General skincare advice

When should you worry about a mole?

- It is important to check your skin regularly for any change. You may want to ask a family member or a friend to examine your back.
- Following the ABCD-Easy rules can help you identify potentially worrying features:
 - A**symmetry - the two halves of the lesion may differ in shape
 - B**order - edges of the lesion may be irregular, blurred or notched
 - C**olour - the colour may be uneven
 - D**iameter - report any mole larger than 6mm or a change in size or shape
 - E**xpert - if in doubt, check it out!
- 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.

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 11am and 3pm 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 to 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.
- Do not use sunbeds.

Feedback

We and our service delivery partner Skin Analytics would love to hear any feedback that you have on this pathway. If you'd be willing to pass on some thoughts please visit the survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PLJCVHQ>, or scan the QR code below to visit the survey.

