

## Dermatology - Excision or Curettage of Skin Lesion

### Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the NHS ability to provide routine elective services. We recognise that patients are waiting longer than we would all like and it is not always possible to identify when treatment will take place. This document provides you with information on how you are able to support yourself while waiting to attend the hospital. The guidance has been written by clinicians who are responsible for your care.

When you are waiting for further treatment it can sometimes feel like a long wait. The information and advice here is aimed at helping you manage that wait so you arrive for your appointment in the best possible physical and mental health.

The NHS has limited resources which means that we are unable to treat you as quickly as we would like. Each healthcare provider has to consider the type of help you need, how quickly you need treatment, the best course of action to help you and when and where you can be seen.

The process of sorting patients based on their individual needs is called prioritisation. The system of prioritisation is applied consistently across the NHS to help us to decide the order in which patients receive their treatment. This is essential to ensure that we provide care based on need. The system means that care is delivered in the fairest way possible.

Once a referral has been made from primary care to secondary care, the specialist team conduct assessments and then agree with you on the right course of action. At this stage, the urgency will be assessed. If you have a long-term health condition, for example, you may need treatment faster than someone without.

Your doctor or nurse has advised you that your skin lesion needs to be removed. Your dermatology specialist will tell you which procedure you require. All of the surgery is carried out under a local anaesthetic and you will be allowed to go home the same day as your operation.

We try very hard to ensure that your surgery is carried out at the appointed time. However, due to the high pressure on surgical lists, there may be a delay. If this happens, you will be accommodated in the surgical admissions lounge.

### Guidance for Patients

We will ask you to fill in an information leaflet at home about your past medical history, allergies and medicines taken. Please bring it on the day of the surgery.

If the symptoms related to your skin lesion are worsening – please see below for details of what to do.

## **My Planned Care Patient Information Platform**

### **What should I do if my health is deteriorating?**

If you develop an acute infection (redness, discharge, pain) of your lesion, then please see your GP for advice on acute management of this.

If your symptoms relating to the skin lesion are worsening (enlargement of lesion, bleeding) then please contact the relevant secretary in the Dermatology Department (see below). Details of your named dermatology consultant and their secretary will be on your correspondence from the hospital, but if you cannot find this please contact any of the Secretaries as they will be able to direct your query in the most appropriate way.

### **Urgent Health Advice**

For urgent health advice about physical or mental health, when it's not an emergency, please call 111 from any landline or mobile phone. You can also visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk). The NHS 111 service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### **Life Threatening Emergencies**

For something life threatening – severe bleeding, breathing difficulties or chest pains – please dial 999.

### **Contact Us**

PA to Dr Avinash Belgi & Dr Sarita Jain

Nicki Scott: 0300 019 8148

PA to Dr Caroline Morgan & Dr Suzannah August

Sheila Parker: 0300 019 2057

PA to Dr Ian Pearson

Carrie Amey: 0300 019 5449

PA to Dr Helen Robertshaw, Dr Binita Guha-Niyogi; and

Dr Liliana Luna

Rachel Jeans: 0300 019 5457