

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/23/042
Skin Cancer Pathway

- 1. What are your current skin cancer patient clinical pathway guidelines e.g., from initial patient symptoms in a GP setting to specialist referral as well as treatment and follow-up procedures and protocol. Attached are two outdated CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) pathway guidelines for reference.**

Please see attached Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB's) pathway, which was up to date in October 2022. Which, following a successful pilot, launched the UHB's Teledermoscopy service.

After the consultant reviews a referral, they have the option to refer on for Dermoscopy photos (taken by our medical photographers), which add more diagnostic information and help the consultant to decide whether the patient needs to be seen, how urgently and in which clinic.

If referrals are made from other specialists, the Dermatology Team generally request that photos are arranged before we triage the referral.

Please also see the follow-up pathways for Melanoma and SCC attached.

- 2. Does your skin cancer pathway include remote patient-clinic interactions (as opposed to face-to-face interactions), Yes or No and if yes, elaborate what they are and what stage in the pathway they're used e.g., teledermatology (the use of digital photography to assess patient lesions) at the GP stage?**

Yes, virtually all patients are referred in with a photo and where Dermoscopy will alter clinical decision making, this is carried out prior to the decision being made as to whether the patient needs a face to face appointment.

The UHB use some telephone follow-up appointments e.g. for results, but this is arranged on a case by case basis depending on patient comorbidities, hearing ability and personal preference.

- 3. What were your latest skin cancer pathway guidelines in 2019/2020 prior to the COVID-19 pandemic (announced as a pandemic by WHO on 11 March 2020).**

The attached pathway was originally developed pre-Covid - Teledermatology was being used for virtually all referrals at this point. The only significant change is the addition of teledermoscopy.