

Your First appointment at the Rapid Access Dermatology Clinic

If you decide not to attend this appointment please contact us on 0121 424 5000 so that we can give the appointment to someone else.

Remember the majority of people referred to this clinic do not have skin cancer and are reassured by attending this clinic.

What will happen at this appointment?

You will be examined by a Consultant Dermatologist. It may be necessary to have a small piece of skin removed for analysis. This is called a biopsy. Sometimes the whole lesion (part of the skin affected) may need to be removed.

What does skin surgery involve?

This is a simple procedure under a local anaesthetic. You will be given a small injection to numb the area involved. You will be awake all the time and you can go home soon afterwards. Depending on where the skin is removed from you may need someone to drive you home afterwards. You will be given more information at this appointment if it is required.

Can I ask the consultant about other skin problems?

This clinic is specifically for suspected skin cancers (Melanomas). Unfortunately it is not possible to give an opinion about other skin complaints. If necessary your own doctor can refer you to a separate general Dermatology clinic.

Can I have more information about skin cancer?

The Consultant will answer any questions you might have. We will also give you an information sheet if you need one. For further written information there are several booklets available in the clinic.

What happens next?

Once you have had your investigations carried out, you will be given another appointment to come back to see the doctor to discuss the results and treatments that might be necessary.

Our commitment to confidentiality

We keep personal and clinical information about you to ensure you receive appropriate care and treatment. Everyone working in the NHS has a legal duty to keep information about you confidential. We will share information with other parts of the NHS to support your healthcare needs, and we will inform your GP of your progress unless you ask us not to.

If we need to share information that identifies you with other organisations we will ask for your consent. You can help us by pointing out any information in your records which is wrong or needs updating.

Additional Sources of Information:

Go online and view NHS Choices website for more information about a wide range of health topics <http://www.nhs.uk/Pages/HomePage.aspx>

You may want to visit one of our Health Information Centres located in:

- Main Entrance at Birmingham Heartlands Hospital Tel: 0121 424 2280
- Treatment Centre at Good Hope Hospital Tel: 0121 424 9946
or contact us by email: healthinfo.centre@heartofengland.nhs.uk.

Dear Patient

We welcome your views on what you liked and suggestions for how things could be improved at this hospital. If you would like to tell us and others about your experience please make your comments through one of the following sites:-

- NHS Choice:- www.nhs.uk
- Patient Opinion:- www.patientopinion.org.uk
- I want great care:- www.iwantgreatcare.org (Here you can leave feedback about your doctor)

Be helpful and respectful: think about what people might want to know about this hospital or how your experiences might benefit others. Remember your words must be polite and respectful, and you cannot name individuals on the NHS Choice or Patient Opinion sites.

If you have any questions you may want to ask about your condition or treatment, or anything you do not understand or wish to know more about, write them down and your doctor will be more than happy to try and answer them for you.