

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 23-060

17 February 2023

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we do hold the information you are requesting
- **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 Attached are two outdated CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) pathway guidelines for reference.**

Guidelines for GPs are as per NICE (NG12) Suspected Cancer Guidelines – please see the local referral form and additional guidance here:

<https://remedy.bnssg.icb.nhs.uk/suspected-cancer-2ww/skin-2ww/>

Please contact Somerset, Wiltshire, Avon and Gloucestershire (SWAG) Cancer Alliance at england.swagca@nhs.net for further information.

For treatment and follow up schedules, the Skin Cancer Clinical Advisory Group refer to National Clinical Guidelines produced by the British Association of Dermatologists, NICE, the Royal College of Pathologists etc. We have our own local clinical guidelines (please see attached documents) with more nuanced details but these are currently being updated with the latest 2022/23 links and updated melanoma guidelines.

- **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.**

As per the link to REMEDY above. No for skin cancer two week waits, but yes there is teledermatology for advice and guidance for routine referrals that do not meet the suspected cancer criteria. GPs in the region are provided with training on how to take and analyse Dermoscopy images. Otherwise, all suspected cancer referrals are made to the 2WW service.

The University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust's service can triage appropriate patients to a medical photography hub where patients can be seen closer to home by the medical illustration team, have a history and professional photographs taken, which allows the Consultants to review images remotely and safely discharge the patient or triage them to the next appropriate clinic appointment.

For diagnosed skin cancers, f/u appointments are face to face with access back into the service should they be concerned in between appointments.

For appropriate low risk SCC and BCC lesions, the patient can be discharged after a full skin examination and education on self-examination with access back to the service via their GP.

The CNS team also manage multiple telephone calls with patients in between clinic appointments at all different stages in the patient pathway depending on the individual needs of the patient.

• **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).**

As per REMEDY and the Constitution – nothing has changed apart from there are now additional Medical Illustration hubs available.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Data Protection Officer
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust