

Important Information about your appointment during the COVID 19 Pandemic

We are facing the biggest challenge to NHS services in Peace time and the dermatology service has had to make some urgent changes to keep vital parts of our service running whilst we cope with staff shortages and redeployment to support the acute hospital.

In order to reduce the risk of any infection for you and for us to prioritise the most urgent patients, we are severely limiting the majority of face to face appointments.

Your doctor has referred you to dermatology about a skin lesion. Please read the accompanying instructions on how to take photographs and complete the supplementary information leaflet

<http://www.brightondermatology.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Guidelines-for-patient-photography.pdf>

<http://www.brightondermatology.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Skin-lesion-form-for-patients.rtf>

and email back to the dermatology department, bsuh.dermatology@nhs.net

If you have no access to a smart phone or iPad or camera and have no-one that can assist (family member, friend or neighbour), please ring 01273 665140. Please do not leave a message as we can not check these at present so please wait to speak to a member of our admin team.

We will confirm receipt within 5 days and your images will be reviewed within our teledermatology service and the outcome of that review will be communicated to you directly. If you need to be seen for a face to face review (diagnostic uncertainty) or require surgical treatment, this will be organised based on priority, with only urgent cases being seen in the next 3 months. Please be reassured that we will see you when services return to normal if it is felt appropriate. If your problem resolves in the interim then please email us to cancel the need for an appointment.

Please try to refrain from phoning the dermatology department unless it is really urgent as all our staff, including our administration staff and secretaries, are stretched trying to implement these urgent changes. Thank you for your support with this.

Please do not come to the hospital if you have persistent cough or fever or have been in contact with anyone with these symptoms.

Your doctor has referred you to dermatology about a skin lesion and to try and streamline your pathway we would like you to send us a photograph of your condition.

Please use the following guidelines. If you can, please ask a family member or friend to take the photograph.

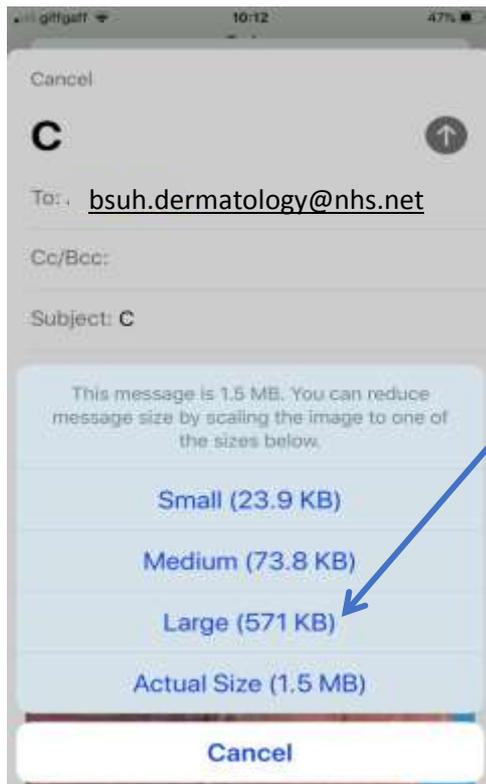
- 1: Choose a bright room or space for the photograph.
- 2: Try to position yourself against a plain background if possible. A light coloured or white wall, or curtain for example.
- 3: If you are using a mobile phone or tablet to take the photograph, ask the person taking the photograph to use the automatic camera mode without flash, if this is available.
- 4: Ask the person taking the photograph, to first take a photograph from around a meter away of the area your doctor has asked to see.
- 5: Next, ask the person taking the photograph to take a close up photograph of the area that your doctor needs to see. It is very important to hold the camera as steady as possible. Try to make sure that the photo is clear and in focus, a blurry image will not be useable. Please also make sure the whole area the Doctor needs to see is in the image. Below are two examples of what is required;



Please send the two photographs to: bsuh.dermatology@nhs.net

(It is very important to check that you have typed the correct email address)

Attach the two photographs to the email. If your phone gives you the option to choose a size of file, please do not use Full Size but chose either Large or Medium



and please include the following information:

-Your full name

Date of birth

-Your NHS number (This can be found on NHS letters or by asking your GP)

-A telephone number to contact you on

Your team will contact you once they have received the photographs and the medical team will right the outcome of the review.

Many thanks,

The Dermatology Team
