

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.10735.23
<b>Subject:</b>	Skin Cancer Pathway Management
<b>Date of Request:</b>	20 January 2023

**Requested:**

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 Attached are two outdated CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) pathway guidelines for reference.
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.
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).

If possible, the preferred format of this information is electronic word document (.doc/.docx) or PDF.

**Response:**

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are a feature of the NHS in England. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is part of NHS Wales and is an integrated Local Health Board responsible for the planning and provision of primary, community and in hospital services, based on the needs of the local community across three (3) counties.

1. This information is already within the public domain. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), as the information is accessible by another means.

The UHB's Dermatology Service follows the Single Cancer Pathway guidelines as part of the Suspected Cancer Pathway, set out by Welsh Government (WG). For ease of reference, please click on the attached link, which will take you directly to the guidelines on the WG website:

[Suspected cancer pathway: guidelines \(WHC/2022/18\) | GOV.WALES](#)

Additionally, as there are many different potential cancers within Dermatology, Clinicians will access and follow several guidelines, depending on the treatment and follow up treatment given. The policies referred to can be accessed via the attached links:

SA21 Melanoma: assessment and management: we follow the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE): <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng14>

Squamous Cell carcinoma: we follow the British Association of Dermatologists (BAD) 2020 guidelines <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/bjd.19621>

Basal Cell Carcinoma: We follow the British Association of Dermatologists (BAD) 2021 guidelines <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/bjd.20524>

2. The UHB confirms that as part of the triaging process, GPs submit e-referrals onto the Welsh Clinical Portal (WCP) System. The referral is then triaged by consultants (locums), who will ask for images so the lesions can be assessed. However, if further or clearer information is required, the consultant will return the referral to the GP.

Furthermore, the UHB is currently piloting the Teledermoscopy branch of the Dermatology Service, which commenced in September 2022. Patients are invited to have their lesion photographed by a clinically trained Medical Photographer, under a dermatoscope, which is then virtually reviewed by a trained consultant. A decision is then made on whether to discharge, book for a Minor Operation, ask for repeat photos in a couple of months or ask to attend a face to face appointment to review the lesion in person. The Teledermoscopy Services are held fortnightly in South Pembrokeshire Hospital, Cardigan Integrated Care Centre and Glangwili General Hospital.

3. This information is already within the public domain. Therefore, the UHB has applied a Section 21 exemption of the FoIA, as the information is accessible via the WG website. For ease of reference, please click on the attached link, which will take you directly to the WG Health Circular – Rules for managing cancer waiting times in 2019 pre Covid guidelines on the WG website:

[consolidated-rules-for-managing-cancer-waiting-times.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#)

Additionally, the UHB followed the British Association of Dermatologists (BAD) 2020 guidelines for Squamous Cell carcinoma, which can be accessed via the attached link:

<https://www.sign.ac.uk/our-guidelines/management-of-primary-cutaneous-squamous-cell-carcinoma>