

Skin cancer service

Dermatology

Information for patients and carers

• Home • Community • Hospital
Caring for you

Welcome to the skin cancer service

It can feel scary and upsetting when you are told you have skin cancer.

This leaflet tells you:

- who is in the team providing your care
- the care and support you may need
- what may happen during treatment
- who to contact for help

We hope this information will help you to feel supported.

The team

Our team will work with you to plan your care. The team includes:

Doctors who specialise in skin cancer:

They will:

- check your skin
- tell you about your type of skin cancer
- talk with you about your treatment

Clinical nurse specialist (CNS):

They will:

- support you
- explain things
- answer your questions

Key worker – your main contact

This is usually your CNS and they will:

- explain your care
- answer your questions
- support you
- arrange care and appointments

Advanced nurse practitioner (ANP)

This is an experienced nurse and they can:

- check your health
- help manage your care

They work with your doctors.

Surgeons

They will:

- carry out any operations, if needed
- explain what will happen
- talk about your recovery

Pathology team

They:

- check biopsies (tests of small skin samples)
- confirm your diagnosis (what is wrong)
- give results to your care team

Admin and support staff

They help to:

- book appointments for you
- help to update your records with details of test results
- arrange follow-up care

Planning your care

Your care may be discussed and planned by a team of experts. This is called a multidisciplinary or MDT meeting.

Local skin cancer MDT

This team meets every 2 weeks.

It includes:

- skin specialists
- GPs with an interest in skin cancer
- pathologists
- MDT co-ordinator
- admin staff

Specialist skin cancer MDT

Some people need to be reviewed by a specialist team.

This happens at Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

The team may include:

- plastic surgeons
- skin specialists
- cancer doctors
- scan specialists
- nurses
- support workers

We will tell you if this MDT needs to be involved in your care.

What happens next?

We will:

- explain your options
- listen to you
- help you choose

Your care depends on:

- the type of cancer
- the best available treatment for you

Your care plan is based on:

- your health
- what matters to you

You will be involved in decisions about your care.

Possible treatments

You may have:

- an operation
- a referral to another team
- other treatments, such as:
 - radiotherapy (uses high-energy rays)
 - medicines

Follow-up care

Some people need follow-up appointments.

If you do, we will check:

- your skin

- how you feel
- if any cancer has come back

Who can I contact?

Your key worker for:

- questions, advice and support

The skin cancer service for:

- appointments

Your GP:

- when the clinic is closed
- for other health problems

Emergency services

- call 999 if you feel very unwell or need urgent help

Your key worker details

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Please keep these details safe.

Remember, your key worker is there to support you.

Contact details

Dermatology
Health Services at Wolves
The Martin Dawes Stand
Winwick Road
Warrington
Cheshire
WA2 7NE

Call: 01925 946690