

30 January 2023

Skin Cancer Pathway

Under the freedom of information (FOI) Act 2000, I would like to request the following information regarding your NHS Trust/Board:

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.

Belfast Trust would advise that you refer to the NICaN Clinical Management Guidelines for Skin Cancer published in May 2022.

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.

Yes, as outlined below:

1. Photo-triage of red flag referrals from primary care.
2. Telephone review consultations for (some) results / management discussions / answering queries. However, all new patients with query of skin cancer are seen face-to-face.
3. Virtual skin cancer nurse specialist review appointments.

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)?

Belfast Trust would advise that you refer to the NICaN Skin Cancer Clinical Guidelines published in May 2015.