

Patient confidentiality

Please be assured that the medical photographer works for the NHS Forth Valley and the pictures are treated in exactly the same way as patient's notes with the highest degree of patient confidentiality and security.

Contact details

If you have any questions after reading this leaflet, please contact the number below:

Records Department FVRH

Tel: 01324 566249

Hospital appointments

Tel: 01324 566249

If you cannot go let us know!

Every month around 2,000 people across Forth Valley fail to turn up for hospital appointments. This costs the NHS millions of pounds each year and increases waiting times. So if you are unable to attend or no longer require your hospital appointment please let us know so we can offer it to someone else.

We are happy to consider requests for this publication in other languages or formats such as large print. Please call 01324 590886 (24hrs), fax 01324 590867 or email FV-UHB.disabilitydepartment@nhs.net

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This includes corridors, doorways, car parks and any of our grounds. If you do smoke on NHS premises you may be liable to prosecution and a fine.



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NHS Forth Valley

Skin Photography Service for Urgent Dermatology Referral

Patient Information Leaflet

Your GP has asked the Forth Valley dermatology department for urgent advice regarding a 'spot' or 'growth' on your skin.

It may be that your GP is concerned about the possibility of a serious skin condition such as skin cancer.

You may be asked to attend a special 'skin photography clinic', so that a photo may be taken of your skin. This will help the skin specialist to decide upon the most appropriate care for each patient referred.

This leaflet has information on what is likely to happen next.

What is the Skin Photography Clinic?

The Dermatology Unit in NHS Forth Valley provides a service to enhance the information supplied by the GPs.

The purpose

This service allows the specialist to identify the most appropriate clinic for you to attend and seeks to shorten your patient journey by avoiding unnecessary visits to hospital.

The aim

To direct your referral to the most appropriate clinic where a clear decision on your skin growth can be taken.

How will the photography service work?

Your doctor would have informed you that they are referring you to the hospital for an urgent appointment. As part of the referral process a photograph of the skin growth may be taken.

You will be invited to attend either St Ninian's Health Centre in Stirling or Camelon Health Centre in Falkirk. If you are unable to attend you will be contacted at a later date with an appointment to attend the hospital at another time.

What happens at the appointment?

A senior nurse usually attends the phototriage clinic. The nurse assesses your lesion and may offer direct reassurance or plan of treatment, or will arrange for a photograph to be taken at the clinic. If this is the case, the photographer will explain how the picture will be taken and seek your written consent for taking the picture. The picture will then be directed to the skin specialist for you to be given the correct advice on your skin growth.

If the specialist can confirm from the photograph that your lesion is innocent/benign we will reassure you and no further appointment is necessary. Please note that on occasions this might mean that the skin specialist has passed your details to another specialist, so do not be surprised if the appointment is for you to attend a clinic other than dermatology. However, most appointments will be to attend a skin clinic, usually either at Larbert or Stirling, sometimes no further appointment is necessary but a further appointment at dermatology may be required.