Advice for patients who require skin surgery

• Hot, sore and the area around the wound is red and swollen contact the dermatology department as soon as possible

• Some people feel that they require some pain relief when the local anaesthetic wears off, therefore, you may want to have some painkillers at home. Do not take Aspirin or Ibuprofen as this may make the wound bleed. Most people do not require any pain relief at all

• To help with a diagnosis you may have a skin biopsy. This is a small surgical procedure where a sample is taken to look at in more detail

• If a biopsy has been taken, the result will be sent to your GP

• We will contact you directly if you require any further appointments or if we need to refer you to the hospital

• You can check the result by contacting your GP surgery after 2-4 weeks. The consultant will write a letter to you and your GP

Possible side effects of treatment

• Slight discomfort may occur following treatment

• Occasionally a slight infection in the wound may occur

• Scarring may occur

If you have any worries following your treatment, please telephone the dermatology and skin surgery service on 0191 519 5850 or contact your own GP surgery.

Dermatology and skin surgery service
Bunny Hill, Primary Care Centre, Hylton Lane, Sunderland, SR5 4BW.
Tel: 0191 519 5850

Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust is committed to raising the standard of written information for patients, their carers, people who use the NHS and the general public.

This information can be made available in another format or language on request. Please contact the Communications and PR Team Tel: 0191 529 7118 Email: mopil@sotw.nhs.uk
Why have you been referred to the skin surgery/dermatology service?
Dermatology is a specialist service which looks at skin, hair and nail problems.
The service is based at the Bunny Hill Primary Care Centre and is staffed by a consultant dermatologist, GPs trained in dermatology and skin surgery and specialist nurses.

Your appointment
• Your GP should have explained why you have been given an appointment
• You should be seen within 30 minutes of your appointment time
• You are expected to make your own arrangements to travel to your appointments

Your treatment, what you can expect
• You have been referred because you may need a surgical procedure. For example, removal of skin tags, a cyst or a mole
• You will see either a consultant dermatologist or a GP with specialised training in dermatology
• You will then see the nurse for a pre-surgery assessment

The pre-surgery assessment may involve having some tests. This may involve having a urine test, a blood test or, in a small number of instances an Electrocardiogram, often referred to as an ECG.

With an ECG test, up to 12 self-adhesive electrodes will be attached to locations on the skin - on the arms, legs and chest. The test is completely painless. It is a test that measures the electrical activity of the heart and takes less than a minute to perform once the leads are in position. After the test, the electrodes are removed.

Any tests are to make sure you are well enough to have the procedure.

The nurse will then give you a choice of time and day to have your surgery carried out and make an appointment with you. You may be offered a same day appointment, if you wish, but this is not always possible.

What to expect at your surgical appointment
• At your surgical appointment the surgical practitioner will explain the procedure and follow-on care and ask you to sign a consent form.

We give an injection of local anaesthetic to numb the area and prevent pain during surgery
• You will have your procedure performed and may be given a further appointment to see the nurse to have any stitches removed or your wound checked the following week
• If you have no stitches you may prefer to telephone the service on 0191 519 5850 rather than attend the clinic for this check
• All samples of tissue are sent for testing. This is routine

Care following your treatment
• Do not remove the dressing unless you have been advised to do so
• The wound may bleed for a little while following surgery. Some blood may show through the dressing, this is normal. Slight pressure with clean, washed fingertips over the dressing should stop the bleeding. Please do not worry, this is quite common
• If your wound does not stop bleeding and you are worried, get in touch with your GP or primary care centre
• The wound may give some discomfort at first. However, if you find it becomes