Advice for patients who require dermatology services

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

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Why have you been referred to the primary care 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 specialist nurses.

Your appointment
• Your GP should have explained why you have been given an appointment at the dermatology clinic
• 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 will see either a consultant dermatologist or a GP with specialised training in dermatology. If required, you will be given a prescription for the treatment to manage your condition
• You may be given a follow-up appointment which could be with a nurse who has had specialist training in dermatology
• Sometimes to help with your diagnosis a skin biopsy may be necessary. This is a small surgical procedure under local anaesthetic which will help with your treatment
• Your condition may require treatment in a more specialised hospital department, in which case we will arrange this

When your diagnosis has been confirmed and treated appropriately, you may be referred back to your GP who will continue to monitor your condition.

If you feel your condition is worsening or you need further advice, telephone the service. You may need to leave a message and one of the nursing staff will return your telephone call and speak with you 0191 519 5850.

Possible side effects of your treatment
Reactions to any treatment applied to the skin can occur. If you are concerned stop treatment and contact the dermatology service.

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

Care following your treatment
Our staff will be happy to answer any questions or give further information. Please ask if there is anything you are unsure about.
• Apply all creams, ointments and emollients as directed
• Nurse-led clinics are available should you need help or support with your treatment