

## Patient Information on the Mole Mapping Service

Mole mapping technology is an aid to monitoring your moles. Your appointment will take approximately 20 minutes.

**Please do not use fake tan or moisturisers containing fake tan in the two weeks before your appointment as this can affect the appearances of the moles and make them difficult to assess.**

At your appointment you will have up to 16 standard photographs taken of your skin and could include close up photographs taken of any irregular looking moles to magnify and record their pigmentation pattern. You will need to undress down to your underwear for these photographs. The images are stored on our mole monitoring data base (Fotofinder) and can only be accessed by the doctor or nurse reviewing your skin and the mole mapping technician.

At each follow up appointment further photographs will be taken and the images will be reviewed by one of the dermatology consultants. If there is any significant change in a mole, or you develop a new suspicious mole, we will arrange for you to return to a surgical clinic for the mole to be under local anaesthetic to be sent for analysis.

Some melanomas (cancerous moles) arise in normal skin and not from pre-existing moles. In addition, we cannot predict if and when your moles might change. Therefore, it is very important that you continue to monitor and check your own skin between visits. You will be given our mole monitoring leaflet to help you understand some of the changes to look out for.

If you are concerned that a mole is changing, or you develop a new mole that looks different to your other moles, please telephone Appointments on 01270 612200 and they will arrange an earlier appointment for you.

As your moles will be reviewed in the mole mapping clinic, you do not need a general dermatology review appointment while you are being followed up in the mole mapping clinic. If you are sent a general dermatology appointment by mistake, please telephone 01270 612200 to cancel it. You do not require an additional follow up appointment unless you have any additional skin conditions which we are monitoring.

Due to current demand we are unable to offer lifelong mole monitoring to patients. Therefore, it is likely that if there are no serious changes in your moles after a period of time you will be discharged from the service.

**In accordance with hospital policy if you do not attend your appointment or you cancel on two consecutive occasions you will be discharged from the service.**

This information is available in audio, Braille, large print and other languages. To request a copy, please ask a member of staff.