

Why have you been referred?

You have been referred to the hub for imaging as your GP has processed a referral to the Royal United Hospital in Bath under the Urgent Suspected Cancer (USC) pathway. This is because your GP believes the appearance or history of your skin lesion(s) needs specialist review. Most people referred do **not** have skin cancer.

What happens next?

You'll be contacted by the BEMS team to arrange an appointment at a local **photography hub**. A trained healthcare professional will take **detailed photos** of the lesion(s) using a specialist camera. These will then be sent on to the RUH.

Only the lesion(s) referred by your GP will be photographed. Any new or additional skin concerns should be addressed with your GP separately.

A **consultant dermatologist** experienced in diagnosing and treating skin lesions at the RUH, will review the images and your GP's referral information. You and your GP will receive the results **within 14 days** of the photography appointment (by post or email, if you consent). Results may also appear in your **NHS app**.

What happens after RUH consultant review?

Unless further assessment is needed, you won't need to attend the hospital. If required, you may be offered a face-to-face appointment or a minor surgical procedure (biopsy/removal). This may be with dermatology, maxillofacial, or ENT teams, depending on the lesion's location.



What do you need to do?

- Be available for appointments at short notice.
- Be prepared to take time off work.
- Wear clothing that allows easy access to the area of concern.
- Apply **Vaseline twice daily** to soften any scabbed/scaly areas.
- Avoid makeup** on the day of your photography.

Information about the imaging hubs

The clinics run at the following locations. Elm Hayes Surgery, Chew Valley Medical Practice, Newbridge Surgery & Sulis Manor Road Surgery.

If you have any questions about your appointment or need to cancel/change your appointment in the Hub.

Please call BEMS on: **01225 560806**

FAQs

Why are photographs taken first?

Over 80% of patients on this pathway don't have skin cancer. Photos allow consultants to quickly reassure patients with benign lesions and prioritise those needing treatment. It also helps direct patients to the correct next step, reducing unnecessary hospital visits.

What if the photos aren't clear?

If there's any doubt, you'll be invited for a face-to-face review.

Can I request removal of benign lesions?

The NHS does not fund removal of harmless lesions for cosmetic reasons. You would need to seek private treatment.

Where can I find more information?

For details on sun protection, skin cancers, and skin monitoring, please visit:

<https://www.skinhealthinfo.org.uk/symptoms-treatments/skin-cancer/>

<https://www.skinhealthinfo.org.uk/sun-awareness/>