The Dermatology and Skin Surgery Service

What is Dermatology
It is the study of skin diseases and deals with both medical and surgical treatment.

Service
The dermatology service at Chesterfield Royal Hospital offers high standards and quality of care in several areas.

- Diagnosis of skin disease
- Understanding of the impact of skin disease on people's lives
- Medical treatment of skin disease
- Surgical treatment of skin cancer and some harmless skin lesions.

The aim of this leaflet is to provide:
- Information about individual members of the team
- Information on some of the specialist tests and investigations that we use
- How to get further information about some skin diseases
- Useful contact numbers.

Who is in the Dermatology Team
Lead consultant: Dr Graham Colver

Who along with our other doctors have years of training and experience in Dermatology. They work with you, your GP and other experts to find out what is wrong and how it can be best treated.

Nurses
Matron for outpatients - Angela Sargerson

Department Sister - Judith Whelan

In addition we have specialist nurses who have specific roles in Dermatology but in addition our Staff Nurses are highly skilled and able to offer nurse-led treatments in phototherapy, dressings and patch tests. Some of the nurses will also carry out small surgical procedures.

The Out-patient Department
All of our facilities are in Suite 3, which has been designed for us to carry out all the special skills required.

Consultation Rooms
This is usually where you will be seen first by the doctor or nurse practitioner/specialist.

Dressings Room
Various types of skin dressings for inflamed and ulcerated skin take place in this area. In addition this is often used for removal of stitches following surgical procedures.

Operating Rooms
We have two operating rooms and a small recovery area. All of the surgery is done under a local anesthetic. Most of the surgery is for small skin lesions or to remove a piece of skin for the diagnosis of rashes. We also perform more extensive procedures, particularly for skin cancers, and sometimes the repair will require a skin graft.

Phototherapy Area
Several skin diseases improve with the use of ultraviolet light. We have two types of phototherapy regime called TL01 and PUVA. A course of therapy often goes on for several weeks and attendance are two of three times weekly.

What are patch tests
Some forms of eczema are due to an allergy resulting from contact with chemicals at work or in the home.
Investigating this is called Patch Testing and involves applying small quantities of the suspected chemicals to your back on Day 1. The chemicals are removed on Day 3 and the final assessment takes place on Day 5.

**Photodynamic Therapy**
A combination of cream and a light or daylight to treat sun damage and some skin cancers

**Skin Cancer**
You are welcome to bring a friend or family member to your appointments. Skin cancer is common and most of the treatment for it is available in the department. Some types can be treated easily with creams, freezing or small surgical procedures whereas others may need a team approach to plan and carry out the treatment. This multidisciplinary team (MDT) meets every fortnight for discussion.

The skin cancer MDT is made up of health professionals who are actively involved in your care and may include the Consultants mentioned previously, and the following:

**Skin Cancer Nurse** who acts as your key worker (a member of the team who has been nominated as your first line of contact): Nicola Cooke and Heather Goddard

**Pathologist** these doctors specialise in helping to make a diagnosis based on the samples of tissue that have been taken.

**Oncologist:** Dr Danson and Dr Lester - specialises in the treatment of cancer other than by surgery, for example X-ray or chemotherapy. Dr Lester attends the MDT meetings. All patients are considered for research trails at the MDT meetings, you will be given a chance to get involved if you are eligible.

**General Surgeon and Maxillofacial Consultants,** Mr Doyle and Mr Orr - specialise in surgery on the head and neck areas.

**Consultant Radiographer:** specialises in Imaging such as CT, MRI and X-rays.

**ENT Consultant:** Miss DeCasso, specialises in surgery of the ear, nose and throat.

**Ophthalmology Consultant:** Specialises in surgery and treatment of the eye and close to the eye.

**MDT Co-ordinator:** provides clerical support to the team ensuring appropriate information is shared.

Occasionally we need to involve colleagues from Sheffield or further afield.

**Where can I find out more about my condition?**
You will be given/offered/or can request written information regarding your condition, treatment and side effects in separate booklets. In some situations we also give you the details of a named nurse with the contact details so that you can readily use her specialist knowledge. You may also be given addresses of national support organisations which you may wish to contact. You can also call or visit the cancer information centre based in Pharmacy—Tel: 01246 516699

**What to do if you want advice**
If you have a key worker you can contact her via the details that you have been given, if you wish to contact another member of the team you can contact the department via the switchboard on 01246 277271.