

March 2020

## Joint Memo with UHDB Dermatology: Procedures of Limited Clinical Value Removal of Benign Skin Lesions

Concerns have been raised by the Dermatology Department at UHDB due to the increasing number of referrals being received for the treatment of benign skin lesions; particularly in the community clinics.

It has been difficult to triage the referral letters as insufficient information is being provided to make a clinical decision.

CPAG has agreed in conjunction with the Dermatology Department that before making a referral and raising patient expectation of treatment, we would like to remind all GP Practices of the NHS Derby & Derbyshire CCG Benign Skin Lesion policy which states that:

**“Derby & Derbyshire in line with its principles for procedures of limited clinical value has deemed that removal of benign skin lesions should not be routinely commissioned and cannot be offered for cosmetic reasons”**

Patients should **NOT** be referred to Dermatology where there is a diagnostic certainty and do not meet the criteria contained within the policy

If lesions are referred, then the referrer should state that the policy has been considered and why the patient meets the criteria

To access the Removal of Benign Skin Lesions policy criteria please click on the link below:

<http://www.derbyshiremedicinesmanagement.nhs.uk/clinical-policies-home/cosmetic/cosmetic-procedures-including-breast-surgery-procedures>

### Please note

- Any lesions that are suspicious of malignancy should be treated or referred according to NICE skin cancer guidelines (via the 2WW pathway)
- Any lesion where there is diagnostic uncertainty, pre-malignant lesions (actinic keratosis, Bowen disease) or lesions with pre-malignant potential should be referred or, where appropriate, treated in primary care