



Leeds Gynaecology Service Information for patients

This leaflet answers common questions about the trial for a vulval image triage service. If you would like further information, or have any worries, please do not hesitate to speak to your nurse or doctor.

What happens at my GP appointment?

Your GP will ask for your consent to take up to three separate photographs of the area of concern on your skin, one to identify the area of the body and one/two more close up photographs to provide enough detail for the doctor to plan the next steps.

Your GP will send the photographs and your referral electronically via a secure link to the Medical Illustration department at Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust. The image will be uploaded to the Trust's image storage system and will be viewed by the gynaecologists involved in your care. The GP will make a record in your notes that you have given consent to have the photographs taken.

What happens after my GP appointment?

Your images will be reviewed in a virtual clinic by a consultant within 48 working hours of receipt. As a result, you will be categorised according to the level of suspicion. Throughout this pilot phase, you will continue the standard suspected cancer pathway.

What are the benefits of this service?

It is hoped that this model will enable early diagnosis and ensure that the correct pathways for referral are followed. It will also hopefully help patients feel less anxious as the fast-track pathway can feel like a worrying process to be part of.

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Q. How are my photographs processed?

When the photographs are taken, they are sent directly to a secure cloud. The cloud is managed by Consultant Connect Ltd and conforms to all NHS requirements for protecting your data. Your photographs on the cloud are linked to your NHS Number only.

Your practice will access these photographs via a secure login, and the photographs will then be sent electronically to the Medical Illustration department at LTH. The photographs will then be deleted from all GP Practice records once the referral has been sent, a note on your patient record will be made that images were taken and sent for triage.

Your photographs will be seen by one of the expert consultant gynaecologists at LTH.

The lawful purpose of processing your photographs is for medical diagnosis. (General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 Article 6(l) and Article 9(2)h)

Q. What does giving my consent mean?

In giving your consent to having the photographs taken by your GP you are saying that you understand and agree to the purpose of taking the photographs, what photographs will be taken and that they will be linked to your NHS number, how they will be used, who will have access to them and how they will be stored.

You can remove consent for the use and storage of your photograph prior to the referral to the hospital, however once the referral has been made to the Hospital your photographs will remain part of your permanent clinical record and cannot be removed. The image itself will remain in a secure folder linked to your NHS number, only accessible by the gynaecology consultants. Your photographs will be stored by Leeds Teaching Hospitals in accordance with Data Protection legislation. Currently this process is in place for patients seen within the vulva dermatology setting and is therefore a recognised images pathway used at Leeds Hospitals for patients with vulva skin conditions.

Q. Who Do I Contact In Case I Have Any Questions?

In the first instance, please contact your doctor's surgery if you have any questions.

Q. How can I raise concerns about the processing of my data

You can write to the Data Protection Officer at your surgery