



ST. JAMES'S HOSPITAL

James's Street, Dublin 8

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Dear Doctor,

Due to the increasing number of referrals of patients with skin conditions and lesions, and in order to ensure that your patient is seen in a timely manner, we propose to decline referrals, and not to offer treatment, for certain benign skin conditions except in exceptional circumstances.

The exclusion criteria have been developed by the Consultant staff after consultation with primary care colleagues locally. This was agreed to ensure appropriate referral, to improve the services provided, to benefit patients requiring diagnosis and treatment of dermatoses and suspected skin cancer, and to be able to deliver these services as quickly as possible.

These criteria have also been agreed between, and are being implemented by, the Dermatology and Plastic surgery services in St James's, Tallaght, Naas and Mullingar hospitals from February 2013.

Referrals for the following will be declined.

1. Viral Warts including verrucae, molluscum
2. Seborrheic warts/keratoses
3. Skin tags
4. Benign moles/naevi
5. Dermatofibromas
6. Spider naevi
7. Mole mapping
8. Epidermal (sebaceous) cysts
9. Lipomas
10. Xanthelasma
11. Tattoos

Facial sebaceous cysts, lipoma and xanthelasma are appropriate to refer to Plastic surgery only.

Referrals for the above will be accepted if:

- There is diagnostic doubt but patients should be made aware that treatment will not be offered if it is thought to be either benign or cosmetic.
- If there are exceptional circumstances, and clear indications as to the deleterious effect on the patient's health, which should be detailed in the referral letter.

If you have any concerns regarding the proposal, we would be grateful if you would contact the Department of Dermatology or Plastic Surgery by letter to ensure we are aware of them. Your support and help in improving the service provided to your patients is much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Office of Deputy CEO

Angela Fitzgerald

Department of Dermatology

Dr. Patrick Ormond

Department of Plastic and
Reconstructive Surgery

Mr. Odhran Shelley

