

CLINICAL REFERRAL GUIDELINES FOR ADULT PERSONAL DOCTORS

SKIN CANCER

Basal Cell Carcinoma

Urgent referral to a dermatologist or general surgeon or plastic surgeon (within 2 weeks) ONLY IF the patient has a skin lesion suspected of being basal cell carcinoma and there is concern that any delay may have a negative impact on prognosis, mainly due to the anatomical location and size of the lesion.

Non-urgent referral for patients with skin lesions suspected of being basal cell carcinoma.

NOTE: Signs suggestive of basal cell carcinoma are

- skin ulceration with rounded edges resembling a ‘crater’;
- telangiectasia around the lesion;
- skin nodule with a pearl-like appearance.
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Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Urgent referral to a dermatologist, general surgeon or plastic surgeon (within 2 weeks) if squamous cell carcinoma is suspected.

NOTE: Plate-like skin cancers usually grow quickly. They are commonly described as ulcerated, hyperkeratotic lesions that usually develop on the head and neck, back and hands. **They often occur in immunocompromised and transplant patients. If detected in such patients, urgent referral is recommended.**

Malignant Melanoma

See National Health System (GeSY): Clinical Guidelines for Referrals to General Physician for adults entitled “REFERRAL TO A SPECIALIST FOR MALIGNANT SKIN LESIONS TO A DERMATOLOGIST”

NOTE 1: In case of diagnostic uncertainty, referral to a dermatologist, general surgeon or plastic surgeon.

NOTE 2:

1. For patients diagnosed with cancer undergoing oncological treatment or follow-up, communication with the treating oncologist is recommended.
2. Patients undergoing oncological treatment or follow-up (at least one visit to the oncologist within 8 months) have the right to direct access to the treating oncologist.

Bibliography:

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1. Rapid Referral Guidelines for Suspected Cancer. A NICE-endorsed summary of the guidelines for suspected cancer (NG12). MacMillan Cancer Support.
<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/healthcare-professionals/cancer-pathways/prevention-and-diagnosis/rapid-referral-guidelines>
 2. ΓεΣΥ https://www.gesy.org.cy/sites/Sites?d=Desktop&locale=el_GR&lookuphost=/el-gr/&lookuppage=hio-klinikes-kat-odigies-pi-gia-enilikes