

## **Dermatology provision**

Please be assured that access to dermatology care within Kent and Medway is equitable to address all care needs. The model for service delivery is slightly different across each area in line with the development work undertaken within the three PCTs.

The west Kent clinical lead for dermatology undertook a clinical review of services in November 2011 and referral guidelines were reviewed by one of the west Kent General Practitioners with Special Interest (GPwSI) in January 2012. Medway reviewed services provision in 2010. Within east Kent a comprehensive review was undertaken in 2010 following a workshop which included patient representation across all localities. As a result the group proposed a new model of care model of care which was tendered through the Any Qualified Provider process.

## **East Kent**

The model is composed of three elements which all work together to form an integrated service model. As a result patients have the choice of provider within a community service at their chosen location. In general the model is designed to support the following pathways:

- One stop assessment, diagnosis and treatment of new patients
- Education and strategies for patients with chronic conditions to support their ability to manage their own condition but with access to fast track review in the event of exacerbation
- Provision of nurse led helpline service for patients

The model was implemented in November 2011 with full implementation in January 2012. Leading up to this we also implemented training for GPs and as we were aware that over 60% of patients referred as a routine case for a pigmented skin lesions did not require treatment, we implemented a diagnostic service where patients have a dermascope image taken before referral. This is then sent to a consultant for review. This has had the following impact for the patients:

- Reduction in length of time between GP review and diagnosis from 13 weeks to 2 weeks
- Reduction in unnecessary visits to hospital when diagnosis is that no treatment is required
- Identification of patients with malignant melanoma who would previously have been referred as a routine patient

In regards to the Orpington model the commissioners are not aware of this service and have not specifically commissioned this provision. However patients have the right to choose as a service provider in line with Choose and Book.

### Community Dermatology Providers in Kent

Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	Provider responsible	Location of service
Canterbury Group	Whitstable Medical Practice	Estuary View Medical Centre
Canterbury Group	East Kent Hospitals Foundation University Trust	University Medical Centre Bridge Surgery Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital St Anne's Surgery Northgate Surgery Kent & Canterbury Hospital Faversham Health Centre
Canterbury Group	The Practice	Newton Rd Surgery
Ashford	DMC	St Stephens Willesborough Health Centre
Ashford	Concordia	St Stephens
Ashford	Sydenham House Medical Centre	Sydenham House Surgery
Ashford	East Kent Hospitals Foundation University Trust	Willesborough Health centre
Thanet	East Kent Hospitals Foundation University Trust	East Cliff Surgery
Thanet	Concordia	Broadway Medical Centre
Thanet	The Practice	Minster Surgery
South Kent Coast	East Kent Hospitals Foundation University Trust	Deal Hospital Buckland Hospital Royal Victoria Hospital - Folkestone
South Kent Coast	Concordia	St Richard Surgery Oaklands Surgery Dover Medical centre
Swale	Medway NHs Trust	Sittingbourne Hospital Sheppey Community Hospital
Swale	Concordia	Minster Surgery Iwade Surgery
Swale	DMC	Sittingbourne Hospital Sheppey Community Hospital

## **West Kent**

General practitioners have access to teledermatology as the first line service for non-malignant dermatology. The GP receives a diagnosis within 48hrs from first seeing the patient. The teledermatology service has the additional benefit of providing ongoing training and development for GPs leading to more selective referral patterns.

A range of second line provision is available to ensure patient choice and provision closer to home. The second line provision consists of:

- A GPwSI (GP with Special Interest) service located at Lamberhurst Surgery, Tonbridge Cottage Hospital and The Gateway, Tunbridge Wells.
- A consultant-led community service located at Tonbridge Cottage Hospital.
- Secondary care services are provided by Medway Foundation Trust at Maidstone Hospital, Medway Hospital, Sevenoaks Hospital, Darent Valley Hospital and at Borough Green Medical Practice.
- Secondary care provision available at the Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH) assists with patient choice and provision closer to home.

Light therapy service provision was expanded in April 2011. Prior to this provision was only available at Orpington Hospital. Provision is now available at Benenden Hospital and at King's Hill Medical Centre in West Malling. The commissioners in west Kent are not aware of a particular Orpington model.

West Kent data does not support the statement that over 3000 patients are accessing Orpington hospital for dermatology. The data does show that over 3000 patient attendances take place annually at the South London Healthcare Trust with the majority occurring at the Princess Royal, Farnborough due to its convenient location for Sevenoaks patients. Over 700 attendances have been removed from the South London Healthcare Trust with the restructuring of the light therapy service in 2011 and these appointments are now provided closer to home (as described above).

## **Dermatology Services – Patient Activity**

### **East Kent:**

Between April 11 - March 12

#### Secondary care

- Inpatients - 4314
- Outpatients - 76831
- Total = 81145

#### Tertiary

- Inpatients – 242
- Outpatients - 8640
- Total = 8882

Between November 2011- May 2012

- Community providers 1882

### **West Kent:**

#### Primary Care

- 2,678 patient attendances

#### Secondary Care

- 25,479 patient attendances

#### Tertiary Care

- 917 patient attendances

7,415 dermatological attendances took place outside of west Kent – 3,735 attendances were with south London hospitals and 3,680 attendances with other providers across the country including specialist services in tertiary centres.

## **Dermatology Service Model**

### **East Kent**

The model includes 3 elements:

- GP Advice and Guidance Scheme including the dermascope services
- Secondary care element for specialist services that require acute environment.
- Community locality hubs for delivery of remaining service

### **GP to GP Scheme**

GPs are able to refer to the scheme for advice and guidance service which acts as an interface between GPs core practice and consultant assessment.

### **Secondary care element**

Patients with the following conditions are referred into acute care:

- Rapid Access referral, diagnosis and treatment.
- Patients who require PUVA treatment
- Suspected connective tissue disorders
- Systemic illness with a rash
- Cutaneous vasculitis

### **Community service**

These are consultant led services based within GP practices or community hospitals. The hubs are situated within larger practices and are supported by an integrated team. The range of providers is set out earlier in this report.

The service accommodates all dermatology patients with the exception of the above. However where patients have been assessed, diagnosed and commenced treatment within secondary care it is expected that on-going treatment is provided within the community service.

## **West Kent**

### **Teledermatology**

This service enables primary care clinicians access to secondary care diagnosis within 48 hours of the patient initially being seen. This means no waiting time for the patient to get a secondary care appointment. Allows the GP to act as a one stop shop for the patients non-malignant dermatology needs. This service has the additional benefit of providing training to the GPs with each of their patients acting as a case study.

### **Consultant-led community service located at Tonbridge Cottage Hospital**

This provides a full dermatology service in a community setting offering choice and providing care closer to home.

### **GPwSI service located at Lamberhurst Surgery, Tonbridge Cottage Hospital and The Gateway, Tunbridge Wells.**

This acts as a step up service for patients that may be beyond the competency of the GP to manage but do not need to access a full secondary care dermatology service. It also acts as a gateway to more complex services such as light therapy.

### **Secondary care services are provided at Maidstone Hospital, Medway Hospital, Sevenoaks Hospital, Darent Valley hospital and Borough Green Medical Practice.**

This provides full secondary care service at multiple sites across west Kent.

### **Secondary care services at Princess Royal University Hospital.**

Offers a full secondary care service and provides patients with an alternative provider to Medway Foundation Trust and therefore supporting patient choice.