

Dr. Michael J. Boffa
Clinical Chairman
Department of Dermatology & Venereology

6th November 2023

Dear colleague,

Referrals to MDH Dermatology Outpatients

The number of patients attending Dermatology Outpatients has increased significantly in recent years however the number of referrals has increased even more, resulting in a longer waiting time for routine appointments.

Please note that all referrals to Dermatology are carefully vetted by a dermatologist according to priority and slotted into "Soon" and "Routine" clinics accordingly. Fast-track referrals of suspected skin cancer through the skin cancer portal are also given priority and dedicated Paediatric, Psoriasis, Hidradenitis suppurativa, Transplant screening, Wart and Skin Tag clinics are also available. Furthermore, patients turning up at Dermatology Outpatients during clinic hours with a referral letter marked "Urgent" by the referring doctor are triaged and, if the clinical details in the referral letter clearly indicate that the patient requires urgent attention, they are normally seen within 24 hours. As such, please **include accurate clinical details in the referral and indicate if a particular clinic is required so that patients can be slotted into the clinic that best suits their needs.**

Furthermore, we encourage you to, where appropriate, treat uncomplicated cases of common dermatoses e.g. simple skin infections, acne, eczema, psoriasis, urticaria e.t.c., in general practice before considering hospital referral, to reduce unnecessary referrals and allow the Dermatology Department to focus on patients who really need hospital review.

If you wish to discuss management/need for referral of individual patients you are welcome to contact Dermatology Outpatients during working hours (Tel 25458405/3, Pager 79704654) and you will be directed to a dermatologist to help with management queries and, where necessary, choose the best referral pathway.

Finally, please note that food allergy testing is not offered by the Dermatology department.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Michael J Boffa".

Dr Michael Boffa