

## Re: Exclusion criteria for referral to dermatology services

Dear Doctor,

There are currently lengthy waiting lists for dermatology services nationally; many patients with significant and debilitating conditions are waiting for prolonged periods. A significant part of dermatology OPD workload can consist of evidently benign lesions which require no treatment or cosmetic problems.

This has been examined by the National Clinical Programme for Dermatology (RCPI/HSE) and the following conditions were identified for exclusion:

1. Viral warts including verrucae, molluscum
2. Seborrhoeic warts/keratoses
3. Skin tags
4. Dermatofibromas
5. Spider naevi
6. Epidermal cysts
7. Sebaceous cysts
8. Lipomas
9. Tattoos
10. Xanthelasma
11. Physiological male balding
12. Melasma

Patient information leaflets on these and other conditions are available at:

<https://www2.hse.ie/skin/> or <https://www.dermnetz.org/>

In the context of current service availability we regret that we cannot normally accept referrals for these conditions unless there is diagnostic uncertainty, and we will not be providing treatment for these conditions once diagnosed. It is important that patients are made aware of this. The purpose of these restrictions is to prioritise resources and improve services for those with more significant conditions. This list will be reviewed on an annual basis by the National Clinical Programme for Dermatology and feedback is most welcome through [clinicalprogrammeadmin@rcpi.ie](mailto:clinicalprogrammeadmin@rcpi.ie)