

# Welcome to the Hidradenitis Suppurativa (HS) Clinic

**This leaflet explains more about our service and what you can expect from the HS Clinic. If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for you.**

## What is the HS Clinic?

This clinic specialises in diagnosing and managing HS. We are able to offer you the best in support and guidance, because we understand how debilitating and life changing this condition can be. We also realise that due to the nature of HS, examinations may sometimes be embarrassing, so your comfort and dignity is our primary concern. We are happy to offer the services of a chaperone if you feel that you would like one.

## Who will I see at the clinic?

You will first be seen by the nursing staff from the dermatology outpatient department, who will take your pulse and blood pressure and do a routine urine test. You will then be asked to fill out a questionnaire to describe how your condition affects your daily life and activities. Next, you will see a highly trained team of doctors and/or an HS Clinical Nurse Specialist, who will obtain your medical and medication history and may perform an initial skin examination. You will then see the consultant dermatologist.

We are proud to contribute to and support research on HS. To assist us in this we need your support and you may be asked for your consent to speak with one of our research team. You are under no obligation to do so and have the right to say no at any time.

## When are the sessions and how long does each one last?

Our clinic runs on Monday mornings. Appointments can be as short as 15 minutes or as long as one hour. We will try to spend as much time with you as you need. Because of this, you may experience delays. After you have seen the doctor or clinical nurse specialist, we may take a blood test or a swab from your skin to see if there is any infection.

## Can I bring a friend or relative?

Of course you can. You may wish to bring a friend or relative along for support, or just for company.

## Where do I need to go?

We are located in the Dermatology Outpatient Department on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Southwark Wing at Guy's Hospital.

## What do I need to bring with me?

Please bring a list of all medications you are taking, even if you have brought this list with you before.

If you are using specialised dressings, we ask that you bring enough for one change as we have a limited supply of dressings in our clinic.

## Further information

If you would like more information or additional support, or if you would like to help raise awareness of HS, please contact:

The Hidradenitis Suppurativa Trust, PO Box 550, Chatham ME4 9AH

**e:** [enquiries@hstrust.org](mailto:enquiries@hstrust.org) **w:** [www.hstrust.org](http://www.hstrust.org)

### Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about your condition, you can contact the clinical nurse specialist team on **t: 020 7188 7847**. Please leave us a message and we will return your call.

For queries regarding future appointments, including cancelling or rescheduling appointments, please ring our pathway manager on **t: 020 7185 4131**.

## Pharmacy Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your medicines, please speak to the staff caring for you or call our helpline.

**t:** 020 7188 8748 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

## Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department.

**t:** 020 7188 8801 (PALS) **e:** [pals@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@gstt.nhs.uk)

**t:** 020 7188 3514 (complaints) **e:** [complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk)

## Language and accessible support services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch:

**t:** 020 7188 8815 **e:** [languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk)

## NHS Choices

Provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make choices about your health.

**w:** [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

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