

Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust (MSE) - Skin Cancer MDT and follow up pathway optimisation

Summary of Collaborative Working Project	The collaboration between Regeneron and MSE cancer services reviewed the MDT process for skin cancer and the subsequent follow up pathway. The project identified challenges and opportunities to improve the efficiency and consistency of the MDT. A plan was then developed to address the areas identified, supporting the implementation and evaluation of changes. The evaluation demonstrated an improvement in 62 day and 31 day CWT performance over the time period outlined below in detail. MSE will continue to utilise the MDT toolkit to support continual improvement and continue to embed new processes.
The organisations involved	Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust Basildon University Hospital Site, Nethermayne, Basildon, Essex, SS16 5NL Regeneron UK Ltd The Charter Building, Vine Street, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 1JG
Overview of the Project	The project was completed between March and December 2025 to review and support the optimisation of the Skin Cancer MDT pathway across the Specialist Skin Cancer MDT and the Local Skin Cancer MDTs. This involved: • Reviewing and mapping of the pathway for the skin cancer MDTs. • Identifying areas that required improved efficiency and consistency. • Development of an implementation plan and supporting the implementation of recommended changes. The aims of the project were: • To reduce the number of cases deferred at the skin cancer MDTs, leading to a reduction in delays for patients to support them along the process. • To improve the Cancer Wait Time performance for skin cancer. • Improve staff experience
Expected Outcomes	Patients • Reduction in delays, leading to more efficient communication to patients from the MDT, and therefore an opportunity to support patients along the process. • Earlier communication of a treatment plan, due to a more efficient MDT process. MSE • To improve the efficiencies across the MDT to enable improvements in Cancer Wait Time performance for skin cancer. • Improvements in staff satisfaction. • Share learning of the MDT streamlining and outcomes across other specialties.
Outcomes	Regeneron provided Project Management support and applied Regeneron's "Optimising the skin cancer MDT – MDT toolkit" to understand the current skin cancer MDT processes and identified areas that were impacting on the efficiency of the MDT. Working closely with stakeholders at MSE, and aligning with internal MSE workplans and the East of England Cancer Alliance workplan, Regeneron supported the development, implementation and evaluation of a structured implementation plan. The evaluation demonstrated an improvement to the end of the project and identified continued areas for improvement (outlined below). The MDT team at MSE will continue to monitor the impact as the implementation plan continues into 2026, processes are embedded and IT systems updated to support these changes in 2026 and beyond.

	The evaluation to the end of the project has demonstrated the following benefits: Patients - Reduction in deferrals, enabling an opportunity for earlier communication of treatment plan to the patient. 18.3% reduction in ave. weekly deferrals at MDT (June-Aug vs Nov-Dec) across SSMDT and LSMDTs. MSE - Creation of a process of continual improvement and embedding 12 interventions as the foundation to support the MDT - Improvement of Skin Cancer Wait times related to MDT 31-day and 62-day (quarterly performance (Jan-Mar vs Jul-Sep): 31-day improved from 59.9%-73.3% 62-day improved from 39.6%- 57.9% - Improvements in staff satisfaction - Improvement in areas of communication and value of individuals input within the MDT. - Shared learning across other MDTs within MSE.
Lessons Learnt	The importance of having a contingency if the Project Lead is unavailable for part of the project. The importance of regular project meetings to ensure tasks keep to time. Regular communication with the wider team was key to ensure the project was on track and aligned with other work programmes. This was especially relevant as the trust operates on 3 separate sites, had existing workplans in place and were also working with the East of England Cancer Alliance. To view the MDT optimisation project as evolution and continual improvement as the skin cancer service and demand fluctuates.
Funding and resources	This project involved shared time commitment from Mid & South Essex NHS Foundation Trust and Regeneron.
Publications	There are no planned publications
Time Frame	March 2025 – December 2025