

Patient Perspective Template

The purpose of this column is for patients to share their experiences with a dermatologic problem to educate dermatology nurses and nurse practitioners. This template is a guide to help you as you tell your story, however, we encourage you to be true to your own writing style and share your experience in a way that makes sense to you.

BACKGROUND

Please share any relevant details to support or lead in to your story, such as age, past medical or surgical history, family history, anything related to your diagnosis (for example, if writing about your experience with skin cancer, include history of tanning bed use or if writing about eczema, include allergy history or any sensitivities to certain skin care products).

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS/PRESENTATION

What were your first signs and symptoms? Did you notice a change in your skin or did someone else first notice a change? How long after noticing a skin change did you see a healthcare provider? What was the sequence of events that led you to your healthcare provider? Who/what type of provider did you initially see? Were you referred elsewhere? What type of provider(s) ultimately managed your condition?

DIAGNOSIS

What diagnostic testing did you undergo? Where was it done? Did you understand the purpose of the testing? Were you educated about what to expect? How were results presented to you? Did you understand the results?

TREATMENTS

What treatments were necessary to treat your condition? How was the decision to treat made? Did you have options? Were options presented to you clearly?

COMPLICATIONS

Did you experience any complications because of your disorder or its treatment? Were you aware of this/these potential complications? How were they managed?

FOLLOW-UP

Where are you now? Is your condition resolved? Are treatments or follow-up visits ongoing?

WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED/ADVICE TO OTHERS/ADVICE TO NURSES AND NPS

Please share any insight. Looking back, is there anything you wish you or your healthcare provider did differently? What impact has this disorder, or its treatment had on your life? What have you learned?