



THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE
OF DERMATOLOGISTS

How to see a dermatologist

Dermatologists are specialist medical doctors who are experts in conditions of the skin, hair, nails, wet areas of mouth and genitalia and skin cancer.

If you think you might need to see a dermatologist, speak to your GP (family doctor).

Your GP will have an overarching view of your medical history, current treatments or conditions, as well as any other factors which may impact your health. GPs are able to diagnose and manage many skin conditions.

If your skin condition is complex, high risk or requires specialist care, your GP will refer you to a dermatologist.

What is a referral?

A referral is a letter from one doctor or health practitioner to another. A referral to your dermatologist will allow:

- Your dermatologist to get some background information about your symptoms
- Your GP/referring doctor to be kept informed
- You to claim a Medicare rebate for your appointment.

Do I need a referral to see a dermatologist?

No, but without a referral you may be unable to claim a Medicare rebate on your initial and subsequent consultation fees.

Your dermatologist will explain:

- Why they recommend this treatment
- How it works
- What the potential side effects are
- Potential risks of the treatment
- How much it costs.

How do I make an appointment?

You will need to call the dermatology clinic or practice to make an appointment. Your GP or nurse can help you with this.

Quick link [Find a dermatologist](#)

Remember

- ✓ If you think you need to see a dermatologist, speak with your GP.
- ✓ Your GP or other medical doctor can write a referral for you.
- ✓ Ask your GP or use the Find a dermatologist directory to search for a dermatologist by location and area of expertise. [Find a dermatologist](#)

This factsheet is also available online at dermcoll.edu.au

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About us

Dermatologists are doctors who are the medical specialists in skin health.

The Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD):

- Trains and supports dermatologists
- Advocates for better skin health for our communities
- Sets the clinical standard in dermatology



This is a general guide only and does not replace individual medical advice. Please speak to your doctor for advice about your situation. The ACD is not liable for any consequences arising from relying on this information.