



## Medicare Benefits Schedule: changes to Dermatology items from 1 Nov 2018

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As of 1 November 2018, a number of changes to MBS dermatology items will come into effect as part of the MBS Review.

This is the culmination of work commenced in 2016 by the Dermatology, Allergy and Immunology Clinical Committee (DAICC) of the MBS Review Taskforce, in which 38 items were reviewed. Following a period of open consultation with College and other stakeholders, the MBS Review Taskforce endorsed DAICC's recommendations and Ministerial approval was announced in May 2018, subject to the passing of legislation.

Changes include: deletion of items that are obsolete or that provide questionable clinical value or low-value care; consolidation or splitting items to address potential misuse; or modernising item descriptors to reflect best practice. Rationale for each change is detailed in DAICC's report, which can be accessed at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mbsr-report-dermatology-clinical-committee>.

### Summary of key changes to dermatology items

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#### Laser excision of face or neck tumours

- Modification of Items 30190 and 30191 to exclude common lesions that are not severely disfiguring tumours, including melanocytic naevi, sebaceous hyperplasia, dermatosis papulosa nigra, Campbell De Morgan angiomas and seborrheic or viral warts
- Changing 'confirmed by specialist opinion' to 'confirmed by the opinion of a specialist in the specialty of dermatology' to prevent misuse and encourage appropriate specialist care

#### Treatment of benign and malignant neoplasms

- Deletion of Item 30195 due to unexpectedly high utilisation by a small number of providers and concerns of over-servicing; and safety concerns of malignant neoplasms being missed or misdiagnosed. Neoplasms suspected of malignancy are to be sent for pathology using biopsy Item 30071
- Certain other benign neoplasms previously billed under Item 30195 (epidermal naevi, xanthelasma, pyogenic granuloma, genital angiokeratomas, hereditary haemorrhagic telangiectasia and other severely disfiguring or recurrently bleeding tumours) may be billed under Item 30191 if the requirements of this new item are met
- Mandating of histopathology for all practitioners for Item 30196, with an allowance that specialist dermatologists can proceed with billing where a specimen has been submitted for histologic confirmation
- Deletion of Item 30197 due to evidence of over-servicing and misuse. Removal of multiple lesions can be billed under Item 30196, requiring each individual lesion to be sent for pathological examination and treatment areas to be specified, in line with best practice



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### **Treatment of malignant lesions by liquid nitrogen cryotherapy using repeat freeze-thaw cycles**

- Mandating of histopathology for non-dermatologists for Item 30202, by changing 'confirmed by specialist opinion' to 'confirmed by the opinion of a specialist in the specialty of dermatology' to prevent misuse and encourage appropriate specialist care
- Deletion of Item 30203, due to evidence of over-servicing and misuse. Removal of multiple lesions can be billed under Item 30202; each individual lesion to be sent for pathological examination (mandated for non-dermatologists) and treatment areas to be specified, in line with best practice
- Deletion of Item 30205 as it is not considered best practice and is rarely used

### **Definitive removal of palmar or plantar warts**

- Deletion of Items 30185 and 30186, as these items are considered obsolete and no longer reflect best practice

### **Mohs micrographic surgery**

- Restriction of Mohs Items to ACD-approved Mohs surgeons and introduction of three new Mohs Items (31003-5)

### **Vermilionectomy using laser**

- Mandating biopsy confirmation of atypia prior to laser vermillionectomy for Item 45669

### **Phototherapy**

- Consolidation of phototherapy Items 14050 and 14053, and specification of an upper limit of 150 treatments per patient over 12 months and requirement that initiation and supervision of treatment is by a dermatologist

### **Laser photocoagulation**

- Several modifications to laser photocoagulation items (Items 14100 – 14124), including: updating descriptors to reflect current terminology; consolidation of several items according to area of treatment; and requirement for photographic evidence to be captured during treatment

## Changes to Dermatology, Allergy and Immunology items as of 1 November 2018

The following list has been provided by the Australian Government Department of Health, noting that it is subject to the passing of legislation at the time of writing (October 2018).

Item	Group T8 – Surgical Operations Subgroup 1 - General	Fee (\$)
<del>30185</del>	Delete	
<del>30186</del>	Delete	
30190	Angiofibromas, trichoepitheliomas or other severely disfiguring tumours of the face or neck (excluding melanocytic naevi, sebaceous hyperplasia, dermatosis papulosa nigra, Campbell De Morgan angiomas and seborrheic or viral warts), suitable for laser ablation as confirmed by the opinion of a specialist in the specialty of dermatology—removal of, by carbon dioxide laser or erbium laser ablation, including associated resurfacing (10 or more tumours) (Anaes.)	\$397.75
30191 (New)	Angiofibromas, trichoepithelioma, epidermal naevi, xanthelasma, pyogenic granuloma, genital angiokeratomas, hereditary haemorrhagic telangiectasia and other severely disfiguring or recurrently bleeding tumours (excluding melanocytic naevi, sebaceous hyperplasia, dermatosis papulosa nigra, Campbell De Morgan angiomas and seborrheic or viral warts), treatment of, with carbon dioxide/erbium or other appropriate laser (or curettage and fine point diathermy for pyogenic granuloma only), if confirmed by the opinion of a specialist in the specialty of dermatology. One or more lesions.	\$63.50
<del>30195</del>	Delete	
30196	Malignant neoplasm of skin or mucous membrane that has been: a) proven by histopathology; or b) confirmed by the opinion of a specialist in the specialty of dermatology, and where a specimen has been submitted for histologic confirmation, removal of, by serial curettage or carbon dioxide laser or erbium laser excision ablation, including any associated cryotherapy, or diathermy (Anaes.)	\$126.30
<del>30197</del>	Delete	
30202	Malignant neoplasm of skin or mucous membrane proven by histopathology or confirmed by the opinion of a specialist in the specialty of dermatology, removal of, by liquid nitrogen cryotherapy using repeat freeze-thaw cycles	\$48.35
<del>30203</del>	Delete	
<del>30205</del>	Delete	
30207	Skin lesions, multiple injections with glucocorticoid preparations (Anaes.)	\$44.60
30210	Keloid and other skin lesions, extensive, multiple injections of glucocorticoid preparations, if undertaken in the operating theatre of a hospital on a patient less than 16 years of age (Anaes.)	\$162.95
<del>30213</del>	Delete	
<del>30214</del>	Deleted under MCRP changes	
31000	Mohs surgery of skin tumour located on the head, neck, genitalia, hand, digits, leg (below knee) or foot, utilising horizontal frozen sections with mapping of all excised tissue, and	\$580.90

	histological examination of all excised tissue by the specialist performing the procedure, if the specialist is recognised by the Australasian College of Dermatologists as an approved Mohs surgeon—6 or fewer sections (Anaes.)	
31001	Mohs surgery of skin tumour located on the head, neck, genitalia, hand, digits, leg (below knee) or foot, utilising horizontal frozen sections with mapping of all excised tissue, and histological examination of all excised tissue by the specialist performing the procedure, if the specialist is recognised by the Australasian College of Dermatologists as an approved Mohs surgeon—7 to 12 sections (inclusive) (Anaes.)	\$726.05
31002	Mohs surgery of skin tumour located on the head, neck, genitalia, hand, digits, leg (below knee) or foot, utilising horizontal frozen sections with mapping of all excised tissue, and histological examination of all excised tissue by the specialist performing the procedure, if the specialist is recognised by the Australasian College of Dermatologists as an approved Mohs surgeon—13 or more sections (Anaes.)	\$871.30
31003 (New)	Mohs surgery of skin tumour utilising horizontal frozen sections with mapping of all excised tissue, and histological examination of all excised tissue by the specialist performing the procedure, if the specialist is recognised by the Australasian College of Dermatologists as an approved Mohs surgeon—6 or fewer sections Not applicable to a service performed in association with a service to which item 31000 applies (Anaes.)	\$580.90
31004 (New)	Mohs surgery of skin tumour utilising horizontal frozen sections with mapping of all excised tissue, and histological examination of all excised tissue by the specialist performing the procedure, if the specialist is recognised by the Australasian College of Dermatologists as an approved Mohs surgeon—7 to 12 sections (inclusive) Not applicable to a service performed in association with a service to which item 31001 applies (Anaes.)	\$726.05
31005 (New)	Mohs surgery of skin tumour utilising horizontal frozen sections with mapping of all excised tissue, and histological examination of all excised tissue by the specialist performing the procedure, if the specialist is recognised by the Australasian College of Dermatologists as an approved Mohs surgeon—13 or more sections Not applicable to a service performed in association with a service to which item 31002 applies (Anaes.)	\$871.30
31340	Muscle, bone or cartilage, excision of one or more of, if clinically indicated, and if: (a) the specimen excised is sent for histological confirmation; and (b) a malignant tumour of skin covered by item 31000, 31001, 31002, 30003, 31004, 31005, 31356, 31358, 31359, 31361, 31363, 31365, 31367, 31369, 31371, 31372, 31373, 31374, 31375 or 31376 is excised (Anaes.)	Derived, clause 2.44.5
	<b>Group T8 – Surgical Operations</b> <b>Subgroup 13 – Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery</b>	
45201	Muscle, myocutaneous or skin flap, where clinically indicated to repair one surgical excision made in the removal of a malignant or non-malignant skin lesion (only in association with items 31000, 31001, 31002, 30003, 31004, 31005, 31358, 31359, 31360, 31363, 31364, 31369, 31370, 31371, 31373 or 31376)—may be claimed only once per defect (Anaes.)	\$413.95
45652	Rhinophyma of a moderate or severe degree, carbon dioxide laser or erbium laser excision—ablation of (Anaes.)	\$356.35
45669	Vermilionectomy for biopsy-confirmed cellular atypia, using carbon dioxide laser or erbium laser excision—ablation-(Anaes.)	\$326.05

<b>Group T10 – Relative Value Guide for Anaesthesia</b>		
<b>Subgroup 17 – Anaesthesia for Radiological or Other Diagnostic or Therapeutic Procedures</b>		
<del>21981</del>	Delete	
<b>Group D1 – Miscellaneous Diagnostic Procedures And Investigations</b>		<b>Fee (\$)</b>
<b>Subgroup 9 – Allergy Testing</b>		
12000	Skin prick testing for aeroallergens by a specialist or consultant physician in the practice of his or her specialty, including all allergens tested on the same day, not being a service associated with a service to which item 12001, 12002, 12005, 12012, 12015, 12018, 12021, 12022 or 12024 applies	\$38.95
12001 (New)	Skin prick testing for aeroallergens, including all allergens tested on the same day, not being a service associated with a service to which item 12000, 12002, 12005, 12012, 12015, 12018, 12021, 12022 or 12024 applies. Applicable only once per 12 month period	\$38.95
12002 (New)	Repeat skin prick testing for aeroallergens, including all allergens tested on the same day, if: (a) further testing for aeroallergens is indicated in the same 12 month period to which item 12001 applies; and (b) the service is not associated with a service to which item 12000, 12001, 12005, 12012, 12015, 12018, 12021, 12022 or 12024 applies Applicable only once per 12 month period	\$38.95
12003	Skin prick testing for food and latex allergens, including all allergens tested on the same day, not being a service associated with a service to which item 12012, 12015, 12018, 12021, 12022 or 12024 applies	\$38.95
12004 (New)	Skin testing for medication allergens (antibiotics or non-general anaesthetics agents) and venoms (including prick testing and intradermal testing with a number of dilutions), including all allergens tested on the same day, not being a service associated with a service to which item 12012, 12015, 12018, 12021, 12022 or 12024 applies	\$58.85
12005 (New)	Skin testing: (a) performed by or on behalf of a specialist or consultant physician in the practice of the specialist or consultant physician's specialty; and (b) for agents used in the perioperative period (including prick testing and intradermal testing with a number of dilutions), to investigate anaphylaxis in a patient with a history of prior anaphylactic reaction or cardiovascular collapse associated with the administration of an anaesthetic; and (c) including all allergens tested on the same day; and (d) not being a service associated with a service to which item 12000, 12001, 12002, 12003, 12012, 12015, 12018, 12021, 12022 or 12024 applies	\$79.20
<b>Group O10 – Diagnostic Procedures And Investigations</b>		
<del>53600</del>	Delete	
<b>Group T1 – Miscellaneous Therapeutic Procedures</b>		
<b>Subgroup 12 – Dermatology</b>		
14050	UVA or UVB phototherapy administered in a whole body cabinet or hand and foot cabinet including associated consultations other than the initial consultation, if treatment is initiated and supervised by a specialist in the specialty of dermatology Applicable not more than 150 times in a 12 month period	\$52.75

<del>14053</del>	Delete	
14100	Laser photocoagulation using laser radiation in the treatment of vascular abnormalities of the head or neck, if the abnormality is visible from 3 metres, including any associated consultation, up to a maximum of 4 sessions (including any sessions to which any of items 14100 to 14118 apply) in any 12 month period, with photographic evidence (Anaes.)	\$152.50
14106	Laser photocoagulation using laser radiation in the treatment of vascular malformations, infantile haemangiomas, café-au-lait macules and naevi of Ota, other than melanocytic naevi (common moles), if the abnormality is visible from 3 metres, including any associated consultation, up to a maximum of 6 sessions (including any sessions to which any of items 14100 to 14118 apply) in any 12 month period—area of treatment less than 150 cm <sup>2</sup> (Anaes.)	\$160.15
<del>14109</del>	Delete	
<del>14112</del>	Delete	
14115	Laser photocoagulation using laser radiation in the treatment of vascular malformations, infantile haemangiomas, café-au-lait macules and naevi of Ota, other than melanocytic naevi (common moles), including any associated consultation, up to a maximum of 6 sessions (including any sessions to which any of items 14100 to 14118 apply) in any 12 month period—area of treatment of 150 cm <sup>2</sup> to 300 cm <sup>2</sup> (Anaes.)	\$221.75
14118	Laser photocoagulation using laser radiation in the treatment of vascular malformations, infantile haemangiomas, café-au-lait macules and naevi of Ota, other than melanocytic naevi (common moles), including any associated consultation, up to a maximum of 6 sessions (including any sessions to which this item or any of items 14100 to 14115 apply) in any 12 month period—area of treatment more than 300 cm <sup>2</sup> (Anaes.)	\$325.75
14124	Laser photocoagulation using laser radiation in the treatment of vascular malformations, infantile haemangiomas, café-au-lait macules and naevi of Ota, other than melanocytic naevi (common moles), including any associated consultation—if a seventh or subsequent session (including any sessions to which any of items 14100 to 14118 apply) is indicated in a 12 month period commencing on the day of the first session, with photographic evidence (Anaes.)	\$152.50