

MBS Item Numbers for Skin Procedures

1 November 2016 Changes

Under the current schedule which came into effect on 1 November 2016 several items have been made defunct and there are now 21 new skin excision items (previously 48). Two new restricted items for flap repair have been created. Amendments have been made to the pre-existing item numbers for flap repair so that they can no longer be used for closure of skin cancer excisions. Five new item numbers covering biopsy and excision of lesions from mucous membranes have been created. There are also amendments to items 30071, 31220, 31225 and 31340. With these changes, the list of MBS item numbers for skin procedures has been simplified and a review of the effect of these changes is planned after one year.

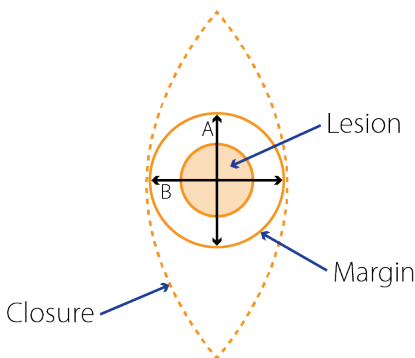
DIAGNOSTIC BIOPSY

- ▶ This has to be performed as an independent procedure, and has to be clinically necessary to allow appropriate management
- ▶ The specimen must be sent for histological examination
- ▶ If the shave biopsy results in a definitive excision of the lesion, only 30071 or 30072 can be claimed

Procedure	Item number
Skin biopsy	30071
Mucous membrane biopsy	30072

EXCISIONS

- ▶ All item numbers apply to surgical excisions (not shave excision) with repair
- ▶ All specimens have to be sent for histological examination
- ▶ The removal of scars excludes scars that are removed during the surgical approach at an operation
- ▶ An episode of care includes the excision and closure of a lesion, even when performed at separate attendances, and the post-operative treatment/follow-up until recovery
- ▶ Defect/excision diameter is calculated as follows:



For the purpose of items 31356 to 31376 the defect size is calculated by the average of the width and the length of the skin lesion and an appropriate margin. Therefore the necessary excision diameter is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Defect size} = \frac{\text{excision length (A)} + \text{excision breadth (B)}}{2}$$

- ▶ Item numbers for benign lesions cover benign tumours, ulcers, scars and cysts but exclude verrucae and seborrhoeic keratoses
- ▶ Excision of pre-malignant lesions including solar keratoses need to be clinically indicated
- ▶ Item numbers for the definitive excision of malignant melanoma, appendageal carcinoma, Merkel cell carcinoma and malignant connective tissue tumour of skin (31371-31376) require adequate clinical margins as per guidelines
- ▶ Excision of a malignant lesion with curative intent should be billed as such even when the margins are involved and further surgery is needed
- ▶ For audit purposes, the following should be clearly indicated on the histology request form:
 - Type of specimen (biopsy – shave, punch, incisional; excision – shave, punch, elliptical or other)
 - Defect diameter as specimen shrinkage often occurs due to tissue retraction
- ▶ The lesion size, clinical margins taken and defect diameter need to be recorded in patient notes
- ▶ 31340 is the item number for excision of muscle, bone or cartilage (one or more of), if clinically indicated, in the surgical management of a malignant tumour of skin of any size and in any location. The fee is 75% of the fee for the excision of the malignant tumour

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MBS Item Numbers for Skin Procedures

REGION 1

Nose, eyelid, eyebrow, lip, ear, digit, genitalia, OR from a contiguous* area

*Contiguous is taken to imply a location that is immediately adjacent to the above anatomical sites, such that the excisional path would impinge on those sites.

Defect diameter	<6mm	≥6mm	≥1/3 Area of applicable site (Hospital setting only)
Benign	31357	31360	N/A
BCC/SCC/KA/lymphoma or metastasis	31356 [†]	31358 [†]	31359 [†]
Melanoma/appendageal/Merkel/connective tissue tumour	N/A	31371 [†]	N/A
45201 FLAP	N/A	Yes	Yes
45202 FLAP (restrictions apply)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wedge excision (full thickness) of lips, eyelid or ear	45665, Any size		

REGION 2

Face, neck, scalp, nipple-areola complex, distal lower limb (distal to and including the knee), distal upper limb (distal to and including the ulnar styloid)

Defect diameter	<14mm	≥14mm
Benign	31362	31364
BCC/SCC/KA/lymphoma or metastasis	31361 [†]	31363 [†]
Melanoma/appendageal/Merkel/connective tissue tumour	31372 [†]	31373 [†]
45201 FLAP	N/A	Yes
45202 FLAP (restrictions apply)	Yes	Yes

REST OF BODY

Parts of the body not covered by regions 1 and 2

Defect diameter	<15mm	15 to 30mm	>30mm
Benign	31366	31368	31370
BCC/SCC/KA/lymphoma or metastasis	31365 [†]	31367 [†]	31369 [†]
Melanoma/appendageal/Merkel/connective tissue tumour	31374 [†]	31375 [†]	31376 [†]
45201 FLAP	N/A	N/A	Yes
45202 FLAP (restrictions apply)	Yes	Yes	Yes

[†]31340 excision of muscle, bone or cartilage can be claimed with these item numbers

MUCOUS MEMBRANES

Defect diameter	≤10mm	10.1-20mm	>20mm
Tumour, cyst, ulcer or scar	31206	31211	31216

MULTIPLE EXCISIONS OF BENIGN LESIONS (Tumour, cyst, ulcer or scar), each ≤10mm diameter

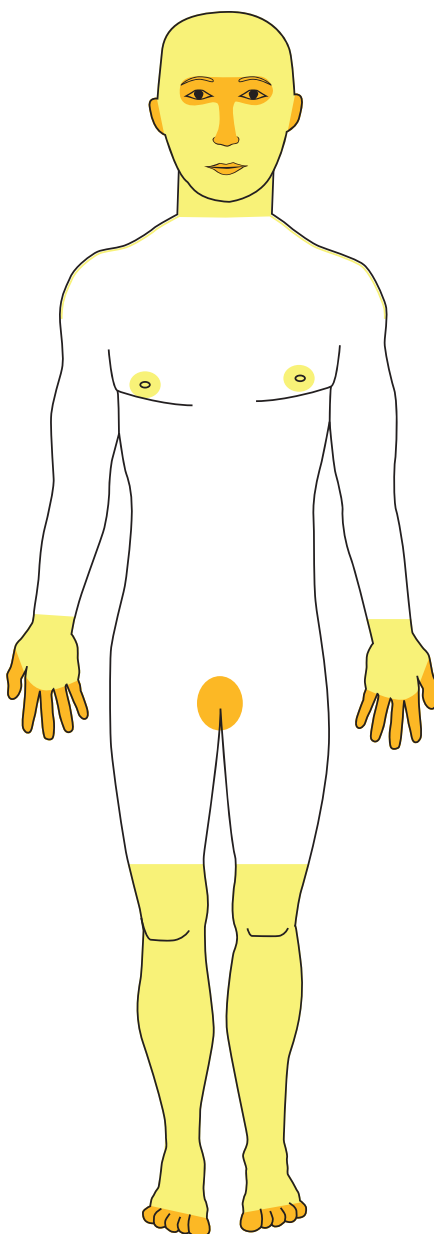
Number of lesions	4-10	>10
Cutaneous or subcutaneous tissue	31220	31225
Mucous membrane	31221	31225

REGION 1

- ▶ Nose, eyelid, eyebrow, lip, ear, digit, genitalia or from a contiguous* area

REST OF BODY

- ▶ The rest of the body not covered by regions 1 or 2



REGION 2

- ▶ Face, neck, scalp, nipple-areola complex, distal lower limb (distal to and including the knee) or distal upper limb (distal to and including the ulnar styloid)

FLAPS

Medicare benefits for flaps are only payable when a flap is required:

- ▶ To adapt the scar position optimally with regard to skin creases/landmarks
- ▶ To maintain contour on the face or neck
- ▶ To prevent distortion of adjacent structures or apertures
- ▶ If the defect cannot be closed directly

The applicable item numbers in the non-hospital setting are 45201 and 45202, which cover muscle, myocutaneous or skin flaps (including Z plasty).

45201 can only be applied to item numbers corresponding to the larger/largest defect diameter in each of regions 1, 2 and rest of body. This number can only be claimed once per defect but an additional flap for the same defect can be claimed under item 45202, if clinically indicated.

45202 can be used if:

- ▶ 45201 applies and an additional flap repair is required for the same defect
- ▶ 45201 does not apply and either:
 - The patient has severe pre-existing scarring, skin atrophy or sclerodermoid change
 - The repair is contiguous with a free margin

FREE GRAFTING

- ▶ 45439 applies to 1 defect, small (split skin)
- ▶ 45442 applies to 1 defect, extensive (split skin)
- ▶ 45442 applies to 1 defect (full thickness)

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Quick Guide to Item Numbers for other Skin Procedures

Procedure		Item number
Definitive removal of palmar or plantar warts, < 10 lesions	Non- ablative treatment	30186
Definitive removal of palmar or plantar warts, ≥ 10 lesions	Non- ablative treatment	30185
Ablative treatment solar keratosis (≥ 10 lesions)	Cryotherapy or chemical removal Note: Benefits for treatment of <10 lesions are on attendance basis only	30192
Simple curettage/shave excision/electrosurgical destruction, ≥ 1 lesions - Benign neoplasm	E.g. Solar keratosis (not verruca, seborrhoeic keratosis, cysts or tags)	30195
Serial curettage excision - Malignant	Skin or mucous membrane	30196
Serial curettage excision, ≥ 10 lesions - Malignant	Skin or mucous membrane	30197
Cryotherapy - Malignant	Skin or mucous membrane	30202
Cryotherapy, ≥ 10 lesions - Malignant	Skin or mucous membrane	30203
Incision with drainage	Haematoma, abscess, furuncle or similar lesion	30219
Lipoma removal	≥ 50mm diameter and subfascial	31345
Excision of muscle, bone or cartilage	If clinically indicated when a malignant tumour of skin has been excised; requires histological assessment	31340
Haemangioma/lymphangioma, excision and suture of:	Small, skin/subcutis or mucous surface (excluding facial muscle/breast)	45030
	Large, involving deeper tissue including facial muscle/breast	45033

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