

SKIN SERVICES REVIEW – Changes to Medicare Benefits Schedule for 1 November 2016***New and amended items in the Medicare Benefits Schedule***

| Item | Item Descriptor | Fee (\$) |
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| 30071 | Diagnostic biopsy of skin, as an independent procedure, if the biopsy specimen is sent for pathological examination (Anaes.) | 52.20 |
| 30072 | Diagnostic biopsy of mucous membrane, as an independent procedure, if the biopsy specimen is sent for pathological examination (Anaes.) | 52.20 |
| 31206 | Tumour, cyst, ulcer or scar (other than a scar removed during the surgical approach at an operation), removal of and suture, if: (a) the lesion size is not more than 10 mm in diameter; and (b) the removal is from a mucous membrane by surgical excision (other than by shave excision); and (c) the specimen excised is sent for histological examination (Anaes.) | 95.45 |

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| 31211 | <p>Tumour, cyst, ulcer or scar (other than a scar removed during the surgical approach at an operation), removal of and suture, if:</p> <p>(a) the lesion size is more than 10 mm, but not more than 20 mm, in diameter; and</p> <p>(b) the removal is from a mucous membrane by surgical excision (other than by shave excision); and</p> <p>(c) the specimen excised is sent for histological examination (Anaes.)</p> | 123.10 |
| 31216 | <p>Tumour, cyst, ulcer or scar (other than a scar removed during the surgical approach at an operation), removal of and suture, if:</p> <p>(a) the lesion size is more than 20 mm in diameter; and</p> <p>(b) the removal is from a mucous membrane by surgical excision (other than by shave excision); and</p> <p>(c) the specimen excised is sent for histological examination (Anaes.)</p> | 143.55 |
| 31220 | <p>Tumours (other than viral verrucae (common warts) and seborrheic keratoses), cysts, ulcers or scars (other than scars removed during the surgical approach at an operation), removal of 4 to 10 lesions and suture, if:</p> <p>(a) the size of each lesion is not more than 10 mm in diameter; and</p> <p>(b) each removal is from cutaneous or subcutaneous tissue by surgical excision (other than by shave excision); and</p> <p>(c) all of the specimens excised are sent for histological examination (Anaes.)</p> | 214.55 |

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| 31221 | <p>Tumours, cysts, ulcers or scars (other than scars removed during the surgical approach at an operation), removal of 4 to 10 lesions, if:</p> <p>(a) the size of each lesion is not more than 10 mm in diameter; and</p> <p>(b) each removal is from a mucous membrane by surgical excision (other than by shave excision); and</p> <p>(c) each site of excision is closed by suture; and</p> <p>(d) all of the specimens excised are sent for histological examination (Anaes.)</p> | 214.55 |
| 31225 | <p>Tumours (other than viral verrucae (common warts) and seborrheic keratoses), cysts, ulcers or scars (other than scars removed during the surgical approach at an operation), removal of more than 10 lesions, if:</p> <p>(a) the size of each lesion is not more than 10 mm in diameter; and</p> <p>(b) each removal is from cutaneous or subcutaneous tissue or mucous membrane by surgical excision (other than by shave excision); and</p> <p>(c) each site of excision is closed by suture; and</p> <p>(d) all of the specimens excised are sent for histological examination (Anaes.)</p> | 381.30 |
| 31340 | <p>Muscle, bone or cartilage, excision of one or more of, if clinically indicated, and if:</p> <p>(a) the specimen excised is sent for histological confirmation; and</p> <p>(b) a malignant tumour of skin covered by item 31356, 31358, 31359, 31361, 31363, 31365, 31367, 31369, 31371, 31372, 31373, 31374, 31375 or 31376 is excised (Anaes.)</p> | 75% of the fee for excision of malignant tumour |

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| 31356 | <p>Malignant skin lesion (other than a malignant skin lesion covered by item 31371, 31372, 31373, 31374, 31375 or 31376), surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:</p> <p>(a) the lesion is excised from nose, eyelid, eyebrow, lip, ear, digit or genitalia, or from a contiguous area; and</p> <p>(b) the necessary excision diameter is less than 6 mm; and</p> <p>(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination; and</p> <p>(d) malignancy is confirmed from the excised specimen or previous biopsy; not in association with item 45201 (Anaes.)</p> | 221.35 |
| 31357 | <p>Non-malignant skin lesion (other than viral verrucae (common warts) and seborrheic keratoses), including a cyst, ulcer or scar (other than a scar removed during the surgical approach at an operation), surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:</p> <p>(a) the lesion is excised from nose, eyelid, eyebrow, lip, ear, digit or genitalia, or from a contiguous area; and</p> <p>(b) the necessary excision diameter is less than 6 mm; and</p> <p>(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination; not in association with item 45201 (Anaes.)</p> | 109.70 |
| 31358 | <p>Malignant skin lesion (other than a malignant skin lesion covered by item 31371, 31372, 31373, 31374, 31375 or 31376), surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:</p> <p>(a) the lesion is excised from nose, eyelid, eyebrow, lip, ear, digit or genitalia, or from a contiguous area; and</p> <p>(b) the necessary excision diameter is 6 mm or more; and</p> <p>(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination; and</p> <p>(d) malignancy is confirmed from the excised specimen or previous biopsy</p> | 270.85 |

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| | (Anaes.) | |
| 31359 | <p>Malignant skin lesion (other than a malignant skin lesion covered by item 31371, 31372, 31373, 31374, 31375 or 31376), surgical excision (other than by shave excision), if:</p> <p>(a) the lesion is excised from nose, eyelid, eyebrow, lip, ear, digit or genitalia (the <i>applicable site</i>); and</p> <p>(b) the necessary excision area is at least one third of the surface area of the applicable site; and</p> <p>(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination; and</p> <p>(d) malignancy is confirmed from the excised specimen or previous biopsy</p> <p>(H) (Anaes.)</p> | 330.15 |
| 31360 | <p>Non-malignant skin lesion (other than viral verrucae (common warts) and seborrheic keratoses), including a cyst, ulcer or scar (other than a scar removed during the surgical approach at an operation), surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:</p> <p>(a) the lesion is excised from nose, eyelid, eyebrow, lip, ear, digit or genitalia, or from a contiguous area; and</p> <p>(b) the necessary excision diameter is 6 mm or more; and</p> <p>(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination</p> <p>(Anaes.)</p> | 168.05 |

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| 31361 | <p>Malignant skin lesion (other than a malignant skin lesion covered by item 31371, 31372, 31373, 31374, 31375 or 31376), surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:</p> <p>(a) the lesion is excised from 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); and</p> <p>(b) the necessary excision diameter is less than 14 mm; and</p> <p>(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination; and</p> <p>(d) malignancy is confirmed from the excised specimen or previous biopsy; not in association with item 45201 (Anaes.)</p> | 186.70 |
| 31362 | <p>Non-malignant skin lesion (other than viral verrucae (common warts) and seborrheic keratoses), including a cyst, ulcer or scar (other than a scar removed during the surgical approach at an operation), surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:</p> <p>(a) the lesion is excised from 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); and</p> <p>(b) the necessary excision diameter is less than 14 mm; and</p> <p>(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination; not in association with item 45201 (Anaes.)</p> | 133.90 |
| 31363 | <p>Malignant skin lesion (other than a malignant skin lesion covered by item 31371, 31372, 31373, 31374, 31375 or 31376), surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:</p> <p>(a) the lesion is excised from 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); and</p> <p>(b) the necessary excision diameter is 14 mm or more; and</p> <p>(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination; and</p> <p>(d) malignancy is confirmed from the excised specimen or previous biopsy (Anaes.)</p> | 244.30 |

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| 31364 | <p>Non-malignant skin lesion (other than viral verrucae (common warts) and seborrheic keratoses), including a cyst, ulcer or scar (other than a scar removed during the surgical approach at an operation), surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:</p> <p>(a) the lesion is excised from 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); and</p> <p>(b) the necessary excision diameter is 14 mm or more; and</p> <p>(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination (Anaes.)</p> | 168.05 |
| 31365 | <p>Malignant skin lesion (other than a malignant skin lesion covered by item 31369, 31370, 31371, 31372 or 31373), surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:</p> <p>(a) the lesion is excised from any part of the body not covered by item 31356, 31358, 31359, 31361 or 31363; and</p> <p>(b) the necessary excision diameter is less than 15 mm; and</p> <p>(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination; and</p> <p>(d) malignancy is confirmed from the excised specimen or previous biopsy; not in association with item 45201 (Anaes.)</p> | 158.30 |
| 31366 | <p>Non-malignant skin lesion (other than viral verrucae (common warts) and seborrheic keratoses), including a cyst, ulcer or scar (other than a scar removed during the surgical approach at an operation), surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:</p> <p>(a) the lesion is excised from any part of the body not covered by item 31357, 31360, 31362 or 31364; and</p> <p>(b) the necessary excision diameter is less than 15 mm; and</p> <p>(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination; not in association with item 45201 (Anaes.)</p> | 95.45 |

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| 31367. | <p>Malignant skin lesion (other than a malignant skin lesion covered by item 31371, 31372, 31373, 31374, 31375 or 31376), surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:</p> <p>(a) the lesion is excised from any part of the body not covered by item 31356, 31358, 31359, 31361 or 31363; and</p> <p>(b) the necessary excision diameter is at least 15 mm but not more than 30 mm; and</p> <p>(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination; and</p> <p>(d) malignancy is confirmed from the excised specimen or previous biopsy;</p> <p>not in association with item 45201 (Anaes.)</p> | 213.60 |
| 31368 | <p>Non-malignant skin lesion (other than viral verrucae (common warts) and seborrheic keratoses), including a cyst, ulcer or scar (other than a scar removed during the surgical approach at an operation), surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:</p> <p>(a) the lesion is excised from any part of the body not covered by item 31357, 31360, 31362 or 31364; and</p> <p>(b) the necessary excision diameter is at least 15 mm but not more than 30mm; and</p> <p>(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination;</p> <p>not in association with item 45201 (Anaes.)</p> | 125.55 |
| 31369 | <p>Malignant skin lesion (other than a malignant skin lesion covered by item 31371, 31372, 31373, 31374, 31375 or 31376), surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:</p> <p>(a) the lesion is excised from any part of the body not covered by item 31356, 31358, 31359, 31361 or 31363; and</p> <p>(b) the necessary excision diameter is more than 30 mm; and</p> <p>(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination; and</p> <p>(d) malignancy is confirmed from the excised specimen or previous biopsy</p> <p>(Anaes.)</p> | 245.90 |

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| 31370 | <p>Non-malignant skin lesion (other than viral verrucae (common warts) and seborrheic keratoses), including a cyst, ulcer or scar (other than a scar removed during the surgical approach at an operation), surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:</p> <p>(a) the lesion is excised from any part of the body not covered by item 31357, 31360, 31362 or 31364; and</p> <p>(b) the necessary excision diameter is more than 30 mm; and</p> <p>(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination (Anaes.)</p> | 143.55 |
| 31371 | <p>Malignant melanoma, appendageal carcinoma, malignant connective tissue tumour of skin or merkel cell carcinoma of skin, definitive surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:</p> <p>(a) the tumour is excised from nose, eyelid, eyebrow, lip, ear, digit or genitalia, or from a contiguous area; and</p> <p>(b) the necessary excision diameter is 6 mm or more; and</p> <p>(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination; and</p> <p>(d) malignancy is confirmed from the excised specimen or previous biopsy (Anaes.)</p> | 357.00 |
| 31372 | <p>Malignant melanoma, appendageal carcinoma, malignant connective tissue tumour of skin or merkel cell carcinoma of skin, definitive surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:</p> <p>(a) the tumour is excised from 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); and</p> <p>(b) the necessary excision diameter is less than 14 mm; and</p> <p>(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination; and</p> | 308.70 |

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| | (d) malignancy is confirmed from the excised specimen or previous biopsy; not in association with item 45201 (Anaes.) | |
| 31373 | Malignant melanoma, appendageal carcinoma, malignant connective tissue tumour of skin or merkel cell carcinoma of skin, definitive surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if: (a) the tumour is excised from 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); and (b) the necessary excision diameter is 14 mm or more; and (c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination; and (d) malignancy is confirmed from the excised specimen or previous biopsy (Anaes.) | 356.80 |
| 31374 | Malignant melanoma, appendageal carcinoma, malignant connective tissue tumour of skin or merkel cell carcinoma of skin, definitive surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if: (a) the tumour is excised from any part of the body not covered by item 31371, 31372 or 31373; and (b) the necessary excision diameter is less than 15 mm; and (c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination; and (d) malignancy is confirmed from the excised specimen or previous biopsy; not in association with item 45201 (Anaes.) | 281.90 |

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| 31375 | <p>Malignant melanoma, appendageal carcinoma, malignant connective tissue tumour of skin or merkel cell carcinoma of skin, definitive surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:</p> <p>(a) the tumour is excised from any part of the body not covered by item 31371, 31372 or 31373; and</p> <p>(b) the necessary excision diameter is at least 15 mm but not more than 30 mm; and</p> <p>(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination; and</p> <p>(d) malignancy is confirmed from the excised specimen or previous biopsy;</p> <p>not in association with item 45201 (Anaes.)</p> | 303.40 |
| 31376 | <p>Malignant melanoma, appendageal carcinoma, malignant connective tissue tumour of skin or merkel cell carcinoma of skin, definitive surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:</p> <p>(a) the tumour is excised from any part of the body not covered by item 31371, 31372 or 31373; and</p> <p>(b) the necessary excision diameter is more than 30 mm; and</p> <p>(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination; and</p> <p>(d) malignancy is confirmed from the excised specimen or previous biopsy</p> <p>(Anaes.)</p> | 351.60 |
| 45000 | <p>Single stage local muscle flap repair, on eyelid, nose, lip, neck, hand, thumb, finger or genitals not in association with any of items 31356 to 31376 (Anaes.)</p> | 541.35 |

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| 45003 | Single stage local myocutaneous flap repair to one defect, simple and small not in association with any of items 31356 to 31376 (Anaes.) | 601.65 |
| 45200 | Single stage local flap, if indicated to repair one defect, simple and small, excluding flap for male pattern baldness and excluding H-flap or double advancement flap not in association with any of items 31356 to 31376 (Anaes.) | 284.35 |
| 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, 31358, 31359, 31360, 31363, 31364, 31369, 31370, 31371, 31373 or 31376)—may be claimed only once per defect (Anaes.) | 413.95 |
| 45202 | 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 in a patient, if the clinical relevance of the procedure is clearly annotated in the patient's record and either: (a) item 45201 applies and additional flap repair is required for the same defect; or (b) item 45201 does not apply and either: (i) the patient has severe pre-existing scarring, severe skin atrophy or sclerodermoid changes; or (ii) the repair is contiguous with a free margin (Anaes.) | 413.95 |

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| 45203 | Single stage local flap, if indicated to repair one defect, complicated or large, excluding flap for male pattern baldness and excluding H-flap or double advancement flap not in association with any of items 31356 to 31376 (Anaes.) (Assist.) | 406.05 |
| 45206 | Single stage local flap if indicated to repair one defect, on eyelid, nose, lip, ear, neck, hand, thumb, finger or genitals and excluding H-flap or double advancement flap not in association with any of items 31356 to 31376 (Anaes.) | 383.55 |
| 45207 | H-flap or double advancement flap if indicated to repair one defect, on eyelid, eyebrow or forehead not in association with any of items 31356 to 31376 (Anaes.) | 383.55 |

New Explanatory Notes

The necessary excision diameter (or defect size) refers to the lesion size plus a clinically appropriate margin of healthy tissue required with the intent of complete surgical excision. Measurements should be taken prior to excision. Margin size should be determined in line with NHMRC guidelines:

Clinical practice guide - Basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma (and related lesions)-a guide to clinical management in Australia. November 2008. Cancer Council Australia and;

Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Melanoma in Australia and New Zealand (2008).

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:

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

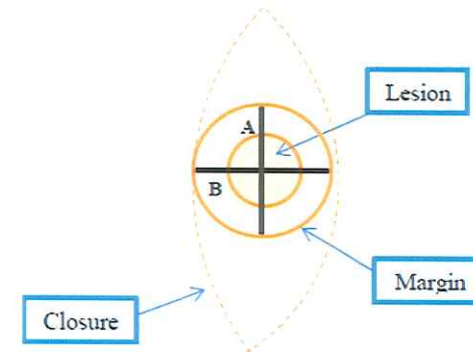
Practitioners must retain copies of histological reports and any other supporting evidence (patient notes, photographs etc). Photographs should include scale.

An episode of care includes both the excision and closure for the same defect, even when excision and closure occur at separate attendances.

Definitive surgical excision for items 31371 to 31376 is defined as "surgical removal with curative intent with an adequate margin".

An incomplete surgical excision of a malignant skin lesion with curative intent should be billed as a malignant skin lesion excision item even when further surgery is needed.

For Items 31356 to 31370, a malignant skin lesion is defined as a basal cell carcinoma; a squamous cell carcinoma (including keratoacanthoma); a cutaneous deposit of lymphoma; or a cutaneous metastasis from an internal malignancy.



Exp. Note
for 31356-
31376

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| Exp. Note for 45202 | Practitioners must only perform a muscle or skin flap repair where clinical need can be clearly evidenced (i.e. where a patient has severe pre-existing scarring, severe skin atrophy, sclerodermoid changes or where the defect is contiguous with a free margin) Clinical evidence may be supported by patient notes, photographs of the affected area and pathology reports. |
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Deleted items

31200-31215, 31230-31240 and 31255-31335