

# SKIN CANCER ITEM NUMBER GUIDE

30071	Biopsy - Skin	30216	Haematoma	10090	Bulk-billed incentive
30072	Biopsy - Mucous Membrane	30219	Abscess	10991	Bulk-billed incentive - regional
30192	Cryotherapy - Premalignant (10 or more)	45030	Haemangioma	18236	Trigeminal Nerve Block
30202	Cryotherapy - Malignancy	30061	Foreign Body	18266	Ulnar, Radial, Median Nerve Block
30196	Curettage and Cautery	30207	Steroid Injection		

## Excisions

### Option 1

nose, eyelid, eyebrow, lip, ear, digit, genitalia  
(or from a contiguous area)

### Option 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)

### Option 3

Areas not covered by Option 1 or Option 2

Non malignant skin lesion	31357	<6mm		31362	<14mm	31366	<15mm	
	31360	>6mm	use with item 45201	31364	>14mm	use with item 45201	31368	15-30mm
Malignant skin lesion	31356	<6mm		31361	<14mm	31365	<15mm	
	31358	>6mm	use with item 45201	31363	>14mm	use with item 45201	31367	15-30mm
Suspected Melanoma	31377	<6mm		31379	<14mm	31381	<15mm	
	31378	>6mm	use with item 45201	31380	>14mm	use with item 45201	31382	15-30mm
Melanoma	31371	>6mm	use with item 45201	31372	<14mm	31374	<15mm	
				31373	>14mm	use with item 45201	31375	15-30mm
Complex Repairs	45201	Flap repair - standard		45451	Full thickness graft		31376	>30mm
	45202	Flap repair - non-standard		45439	Split skin graft - Small			
	45665	Wedge (Lip, Eyelid, Ear)		45448	Split skin graft - eyelid, nose, lip, ear, neck, hand, thumb, finger, genitalia			
	45207	H-flap or double advancement flap						
	31340	Muscle, Bone, Cartilage						



## **Melanoma Item Number Changes**

Effective Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 Medicare will be making a number of changes to the item numbers we use for billing melanomas and lesions suspicious of being melanoma. The new structure includes:

- 7 new items (31377 to 31383) for the initial excision of clinically suspected melanoma;
- Amendments to the existing definitive excision items (31371 to 31376).

### **What does this mean ?**

Medical practitioners who suspect a lesion to be melanoma may perform a local excision of the lesion and then claim one of the 7 new MBS items for the initial excision of clinically suspected melanoma (31377 to 31383).

These items require that the specimen be sent for histopathology but can be appropriately claimed regardless of the histopathological findings.

Practitioners should document the reasoning for their clinical suspicion that led to such an excision as this may be subject to professional review.

Once melanoma, or melanoma in situ, is proven by histopathology the practitioner can then perform a definitive wide excision of the lesion, including excision of the primary tumour bed and claim the relevant definitive excision item (31371 to 31376).

With the amendments to the existing definitive excision items (31371 to 31376), the term “including excision of the primary tumour bed,” has been added to the descriptor. It is unclear as to whether this implies that the initial tissue removed in the first procedure can be included when determining the defect size for the wider excision.

If this intended definitive excision is then demonstrated on histopathology to be incomplete a further definitive wide excision may be performed and claimed under the relevant definitive excision item (31371 to 31376).

The new items (31377 to 31383) are site specific:

31377, 31378 – Nose, eyelid, eyebrow, lip, ear, digit or genitalia, or from a contiguous area

31379, 31380 – 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)

31381, 31382, 31383 - Any part of the body not covered by item 31377, 31378, 31379 or 31380

The new items (31377 to 31383) are also size specific.

**31377**

Clinically suspected melanoma, surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:  
(a) the lesion is excised from nose, eyelid, eyebrow, lip, ear, digit or genitalia, or from a contiguous area; and  
(b) the necessary excision diameter is less than 6 mm; and  
(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination;  
not in association with a service to which item 45201 applies  
(Anaes.)

Fee: \$114.10 Benefit: 75% = \$85.60 85% = \$97.00

**31378**

Clinically suspected melanoma, surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:  
(a) the lesion is excised from nose, eyelid, eyebrow, lip, ear, digit or genitalia, or from a contiguous area; and  
(b) the necessary excision diameter is 6 mm or more; and  
(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination  
(Anaes.)

Fee: \$174.85 Benefit: 75% = \$131.15 85% = \$148.60

**31379**

Clinically suspected melanoma, surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:  
(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  
(b) the necessary excision diameter is less than 14 mm; and  
(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination;  
not in association with a service to which item 45201 applies  
(Anaes.)

Fee: \$139.35 Benefit: 75% = \$104.50 85% = \$118.45

**31380**

Clinically suspected melanoma, surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:  
(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  
(b) the necessary excision diameter is 14 mm or more; and  
(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination  
(Anaes.)

Fee: \$174.85 Benefit: 75% = \$131.15 85% = \$148.60

**31381**

Clinically suspected melanoma, surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:  
(a) the lesion is excised from any part of the body not covered by item 31377, 31378, 31379 or 31380; and  
(b) the necessary excision diameter is less than 15 mm; and  
(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination;  
not in association with a service to which item 45201 applies  
(Anaes.)

Fee: \$99.35 Benefit: 75% = \$74.50 85% = \$84.45

**31382**

Clinically suspected melanoma, surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:  
(a) the lesion is excised from any part of the body not covered by item 31377, 31378, 31379 and 31380; and  
(b) the necessary excision diameter is at least 15 mm but not more than 30mm; and  
(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination;  
not in association with a service to which item 45201 applies  
(Anaes.)

Fee: \$130.60 Benefit: 75% = \$97.95 85% = \$111.00

**31383**

Clinically suspected melanoma, surgical excision (other than by shave excision) and repair of, if:  
(a) the lesion is excised from any part of the body not covered by item 31377, 31378, 31379 and 31380; and  
(b) the necessary excision diameter is more than 30 mm; and  
(c) the excised specimen is sent for histological examination  
(Anaes.)

Fee: \$149.40 Benefit: 75% = \$112.05 85% = \$127.00