



### **Who Will You See?**

Our skin clinic doctors are all experienced GPs with a special interest and extra training in skin cancer medicine. Our GPs participate in on-going skin education and the Skin Cancer Society of Australia's surgical audit of excisions and biopsies, to ensure our management of your skin is best practice.

### **What happens in a skin check?**

Your skin will be checked from head to toe. A polarised light dermoscope may be used to assist with diagnosis and management of your skin. A digital photograph may be taken if a spot needs observation. Be sure to tell the doctor about any spots you are worried about.

You might have spots that need **cryotherapy** (or freezing). Some spots do not settle with cryotherapy and not all spots are suitable for this treatment. A **biopsy** (taking a small sample of skin and sending it to the laboratory for analysis) or an **excision** might be needed to fully treat the problem. If you need a biopsy or an excision you will probably be asked to make another appointment.

### **Can all skin cancers be found at a skin check?**

**No.** Not all skin cancers have features that allow immediate or accurate diagnosis. Melanomas can be "featureless" or unrecognizable and other skin spots can look like melanoma or non-melanoma cancer yet turn out to be harmless. Sometimes it is a change in the appearance or feel of a spot that makes it suspicious for a skin cancer. It is important to remain vigilant for any skin changes between visits.

### **What if I need referral to a specialist?**

Some skin cancers are better managed by specialist dermatologists or surgeons. In these cases your doctor will refer you for specialist care.

### **What will it cost?**

Your skin check in the Skin Cancer Clinic will be charged as a standard consultation fee.

Standard fees will start at \$ 106.00 with a Medicare rebate of \$ 42.85.

Children 15 years old and under, full time students between 16 and 25 years old and Commonwealth Pension Card, Health Care Card and Disability Pension Card holders will be privately charged a reduced fee of \$ 83.00 with a Medicare rebate of \$ 42.85. Commonwealth Senior Card holders will be privately charged a reduced fee of \$ 86.00 with a Medicare rebate of \$ 42.85.

Any extra procedures such freezing or biopsies will incur an extra fee. Medicare refund will apply for the rebate.

**Excisions: All excisions will incur an out-of-pocket fee. Your doctor will advise you of the cost.**

**DVA Gold Card Patients – All fees will be incurred by DVA.**

### **When do I need to come back?**

Yearly skin checks are sufficient for most people. If you have had cryotherapy we like to check you in 3 months. If you have had a skin cancer treated, we need to see you in 3-6 months. Your doctor will tell you when to return. We will send you a reminder to help you remember.