



## Information for Patients attending our Skin Cancer Clinic

Please read through this information. It contains useful information to help you prepare for your skin cancer check.

Skin checks are charged as a standard consultation fee and you do not need to be a regular patient to attend the clinic. We use state-of-the-art dermatoscopy to assist with a patient's diagnosis and management.

### Who Will You See?

Our skin clinic doctors are all experienced general practitioners 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 dermatoscope or the Fotofinder dermatoscope 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.

**Excisions:** All excisions will incur an out of pocket fee of \$100-\$150 for private patients and \$50 for concession card holders and children 17 years and under. Fees for patients with a DVA Gold Card will be charged to the 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.

Please take this form with you to your appointment.

Your doctor will ask you to sign it before commencing your skin check examination.

I have read the skin information above and have been given the opportunity to ask questions which have been satisfactorily answered.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Patient

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date