

Chapter 15 – Skin and subcutaneous tissue

When skin lesions are removed, either by excision biopsy or wide excision, the resulting defect can usually be closed by primary suture. Therefore, our view is that the primary closure is part and parcel of the procedure used to remove the skin lesion.

When Mohs' micrographic surgery is carried out, the resulting defect is normally of a size and shape that cannot be closed by a primary suture and so it is usual for a small skin graft or local flap to be used. Our fee allowance for the primary Mohs' procedure includes an additional amount for a flap closure.

Where the lesion being removed is in a site which causes significant clinical problems, we may allow an additional fee to be charged to reflect this on receipt of a detailed medical report.

Many excisions or excision biopsies are performed under local anaesthesia. This is part and parcel of the primary procedure and additional fees should not be charged. The fee allowed for anaesthesia is for the care of an unconscious or semi-conscious patient during surgery and not for the simple administration of an injection.

Codes for the removal of malignant lesions should only be used where the malignant lesion is removed with a margin of normal tissue and the malignancy is confirmed by the histology report.

Last updated: October 2024.

15.1 Lesions of skin

CCSD	Description	Complexity	Specialist fee	Anaesthetist fee
H5680	Excision of pressure sore excluding repair	Intermediate	£250.00	£285.00
S0410	Wide excision of sweat glands – including bilateral axillae	Intermediate	£450.00	£285.00
S0520	Microscopically controlled excision of lesion of skin or subcutaneous tissue (Mohs micrographic surgery) with immediate reconstruction	Xmajor	£850.00	£357.00
S0521	Microscopically controlled excision of lesion of skin or subcutaneous tissue (Mohs micrographic surgery) without reconstruction	Major	£700.00	£357.00
S0602	Primary excision of malignant lesion - head and neck	Intermediate	£300.00	£213.00
S0603	Primary excision of malignant lesion - trunk and limbs	Intermediate	£300.00	£213.00
S0604	Secondary excision of malignant lesion - head and neck	Intermediate	£300.00	£213.00
S0605	Secondary excision of malignant lesion - trunk and limbs	Intermediate	£300.00	£213.00
S0606	Photodynamic therapy (PDT) to malignant lesion of skin, with artificial light source, up to three	Intermediate	£250.00	£0.00
S0607	Photodynamic therapy (PDT) to malignant lesion of skin, with artificial light source, four or more	Major	£250.00	£0.00
S0608	Sentinel lymph node biopsy for melanoma	Intermediate	£300.00	£213.00
S0632	Excision of lesion of skin or subcutaneous tissue - up to three, Head & Neck (excluding lipoma)	Minor	£175.00	£142.00
S0633	Excision of lesion of skin or subcutaneous tissue - up to three, Trunk & Limbs (excluding lipoma)	Minor	£175.00	£142.00
S0642	Excision of lesion of skin or subcutaneous tissue - four or more, Head & Neck (excluding lipoma)	Intermediate	£250.00	£142.00
S0643	Excision of lesion of skin or subcutaneous tissue - four or more, Trunk & Limbs (excluding lipoma)	Intermediate	£250.00	£142.00
S0651	Removal of benign lesion on trunk or limbs less than 10 cm in diameter or on scalp less than 5cm in diameter (excluding lipoma)	Minor	£140.00	£142.00
S0652	Removal of benign lesion on trunk or limbs greater than 10 cm in diameter or on scalp greater than 5 cm in diameter (excluding lipoma)	Intermediate	£210.00	£142.00
S0653	Removal of benign lesion in muscle or deeper tissue (excluding lipoma)	Intermediate	£250.00	£142.00
S0654	Removal of benign lesion on head and neck (excluding scalp) which is closed by primary closure or advancement flap (excluding lipoma)	Intermediate	£210.00	£142.00
S0655	Removal of benign lesion on head and neck requiring flap closure (excluding advancement flap) (excluding lipoma)	Intermediate	£210.00	£142.00
S0656	Removal of lipoma	Intermediate	£250.00	£142.00
S0820	Curettage/cryotherapy of lesions of skin including cauterisation - four or more	Intermediate	£200.00	£142.00
S0922	Laser destruction of lesion(s) of skin - up to 25cm ² in area	Minor	£150.00	£0.00
S0923	Laser destruction of lesion(s) of skin - over 25cm ² in area	Minor	£200.00	£0.00
S0940	Photodynamic therapy (PDT), with artificial light source, to non-malignant lesions of skin	Intermediate	£250.00	£0.00
S1420	Shave biopsy of lesion of skin	Minor	£100.00	£129.00
S4480	Removal of foreign body in deeper tissue	Intermediate	£300.00	£213.00
S4720	Drainage of lesion of skin, including abscess	Minor	£100.00	£129.00

S4740	Drainage of large subcutaneous abscess/haematoma	Minor	£200.00	£213.00
S6400	Excision of nail bed (Zadik's) (including anaesthetic)	Intermediate	£200.00	£213.00
S7010	Wedge excision or avulsion of nail including chemical ablation of nail bed	Minor	£150.00	£142.00

15.2 Repair

CCSD	Description	Complexity	Specialist fee	Anaesthetist fee
S4182	Debridement and primary suture of wound with involvement of deeper tissue - Head and Neck	Intermediate	£400.00	£285.00
S4183	Debridement and primary suture of wound with involvement of deeper tissue - Trunk and Limbs	Intermediate	£400.00	£285.00
S4212	Debridement and primary suture of wound without involvement of deeper tissue (skin and subcutaneous fat only) - Head and Neck	Intermediate	£400.00	£285.00
S4213	Debridement and primary suture of wound without involvement of deeper tissue (skin and subcutaneous fat only) - Trunk and Limbs	Intermediate	£400.00	£285.00
S4230	Secondary suture of skin	Minor	£100.00	£129.00
S4812	Insertion of skin expander into tissue (not related to breast reconstruction)	Intermediate	£400.00	£213.00
S4911	Positional surgical adjustment to skin expander in subcutaneous tissue	Minor	£400.00	£213.00
S4930	Removal of skin expander or valve (not related to breast reconstruction)	Intermediate	£400.00	£213.00
S4950	Fat transfer, including extraction and volume adjustment, of scar defect following trauma (excluding breast)	Intermediate	£250.00	£142.00
S5710	Debridement of wound (and surgical toilet) - up to 25cm ² in area	Minor	£150.00	£142.00
S5712	Debridement of wound (and surgical toilet) - over 25cm ² in area	Minor	£150.00	£142.00
W0950	Radical clearance of sarcoma of trunk or limbs, +/- amputation or insertion of prosthesis	Complex	£750.00	£357.00
W0951	Radical clearance of sarcoma of head and neck necessitating flap reconstruction	Complex	£1,000.00	£649.00
W0960	Excision of benign tumour of bone with bone grafting	Xmajor	£750.00	£357.00

15.3 Burns, scars and contractures

CCSD	Description	Complexity	Specialist fee	Anaesthetist fee
S5532	Dressing of burn of skin or subcutaneous tissue (less than 2%)	Minor	£150.00	£259.00
S5533	Dressing of burn of skin or subcutaneous tissue (2% - 10%)	Minor	£150.00	£259.00
S5534	Dressing of burn of skin or subcutaneous tissue (10% - 25%)	Minor	£150.00	£259.00
S5535	Dressing of burn of skin or subcutaneous tissue (greater than 25%)	Minor	£150.00	£259.00
S5560	Release of burn scar contracture, head, neck, hands, feet and genitalia	Xmajor	£600.00	£357.00
S5562	Release of burn scar contracture, trunk and limbs	Major	£500.00	£357.00
S6040	Scar revision up to 5cm - head and neck	Minor	£175.00	£0.00
S6041	Scar revision up to 5cm – trunk and limbs	Minor	£175.00	£0.00
S6042	Scar revision over 5cm - head and neck	Intermediate	£250.00	£142.00
S6043	Scar revision over 5cm – trunk and limbs	Intermediate	£250.00	£142.00

15.4 Flaps

Unless otherwise stated, these codes relate to the formation, division and transfer of the flap and include the repair of the donor site. They do not include excision of the skin or wound at the recipient site.

CCSD	Description	Complexity	Specialist fee	Anaesthetist fee
B2984	Delayed reconstruction of breast using pedicled TRAM	Complex	£1,300.00	£642.00
S1700	Distant flap – delay/division/inset	Major	£550.00	£357.00
S1740	Large myocutaneous (muscular/cutaneous) flap (9cm ² or more) including closure of secondary defect	Xmajor	£800.00	£571.00
S1750	Large muscle flap (9cm ² or more) including skin graft and closure of secondary defect	Xmajor	£550.00	£357.00
S1900	Distant pedicle flap – elevation including transfer (including closure/grafting to secondary defect)	Complex	£550.00	£357.00
S2000	Large island skin flap (9cm ² or more) (e.g., radical forearm) including closure of secondary defect	Xmajor	£650.00	£357.00
S2002	Small island flap (less than 9cm ²)	Intermediate	£650.00	£357.00
S2220	Neurovascular island flap	Xmajor	£650.00	£357.00
S2500	Local flap – less than 9cm ²	Major	£500.00	£213.00
S2502	Local flap – 9cm ² or more (excluding graft/flap to secondary defect)	Major	£500.00	£213.00
S2503	Local flap – 9cm ² or more (including graft/flap to secondary defect)	Xmajor	£500.00	£213.00
S3100	Re-exploration of free flap	Xmajor	£1,000.00	£857.00
T7602	Microvascular free tissue transfer (when added to other codes) including closure of secondary defect	Complex	£1,000.00	£857.00
T7603	Microvascular free tissue transfer (as sole procedure including closure of secondary defect)	Complex	£1,000.00	£857.00
T7604	Vein/artery graft of part of microvascular free tissue transfer	Major	£750.00	£357.00
T7620	Free functioning muscle transfer (as sole procedure) including closure of secondary defect	Complex	£1,000.00	£857.00
W3180	Free composite (i.e., including bone) vascularised grafts	Complex	£1,000.00	£857.00

15.5 Free skin grafts

Unless otherwise stated, these codes relate to the formation, division and transfer of the graft and include the repair of the donor site. They do not include excision of the skin or wound at the recipient site. All definitions relate to recipient sites unless otherwise stated.

CCSD code	Description	Complexity	Specialist fee	Anaesthetist fee
S3500	Split autograft of skin, trunk and limbs – up to 25cm ² in area	Intermediate	£300.00	£213.00
S3530	Split autograft of skin, trunk and limbs – over 25cm ² and up to 5% of body surface area	Major	£550.00	£285.00
S3532	Split autograft of skin, trunk and limbs – each additional 5% of body surface area	Major	£550.00	£285.00
S3622	Full thickness graft, trunk and limbs – up to 9cm ² in area	Intermediate	£350.00	£285.00
S3623	Full thickness graft, trunk and limbs – each additional 25cm ² in area	Minor	£350.00	£285.00
S3624	Full thickness graft, head, neck, hands and genitalia – up to 9cm ² in area	Major	£350.00	£285.00
S3625	Full thickness graft, head, neck, hands and genitalia each additional 16cm ² in area	Minor	£350.00	£285.00