

Credentialing / Re-credentialing for Skin Surgery

A Framework

This framework sets down the training and surgical requirements for those seeking to be credentialed to deliver surgery for the WBoP PHO Skin Surgery Service. The framework draws heavily on Dr. Monnington's paper as well as those processes and standards previously applying.

The framework aims to provide assurance that those operating under the service have the skills and experience to do so safely and within their assigned scope of practice.

The WBoP PHOs Skin Surgery Service prescribes four different levels that a GP may request to be graded at.

- Basic
- Intermediate
- Advanced
- Advanced Plus

At each level, four considerations are present:

1. Definition of Treatment Level
This is a definition of the expected types of treatment that a GPSI would be able to manage at their credentialed level. It also assumes the GPSI would be able to manage any complications of treatment arising at this level.
2. Level of Knowledge Required
The expected level of clinical and surgical knowledge required at each level.
3. Training requirements
There is a defined set of training requirement for each of the four levels. Verification of attendance and successful completion of the course will be required.

If a GP / GPSI has undertaken a course not appearing on the schedule the applicant can bring this to the attention of the Credentialing Panel for consideration.

4. Clinical Assessment

This provides the basis for assessing the clinical performance of applicants. The amount, type, and level of assessment will vary depending on the grade applied for.

Histology

Histology results form the central component of the Clinical Assessment process. GP / GPSI's will be required under each of the four levels, to organise the forwarding of histology results directly from Pathlab. The histology samples forwarded for consideration should include all types of histology, be a mixture of excision, and punch biopsies.

The histology results are assessed on the following basis:

1. A rate of incomplete excisions being less than 10%
2. Too narrower excision margins
3. Benign to Malignant ratio
4. Wound infection rate being less than 5%

Clinical Photography

For those seeking A or A+ grading, clinical photography is recommended showing:

- Pre-operative markings
- Intra-operative before sutures are applied
- Post-operative after sutures are placed

Credentialed Level: Basic

A considerable number of GP's practising in NZ have good procedural skills, are competent at minor surgery and have acquired these competencies during their GP training or GP career. The BASIC level is designed to recognise these GP's.

Treatment Level

- Skin cancer detection;
- Skin cancer medical management;
- Skin cancer prevention;
- Punch biopsy / incisional biopsy / excisional biopsy / shave biopsy;
- Simple ellipses, direct closure lesions \leq 5mm that are not on digits, below the knee, scalp, face or T zone;
- Excludes other areas of the body re lesions > 5mm;
- Refer margin and grading table.

Level of Knowledge

- Standard diagnosis, management and referral of melanoma, BCC, SCC and benign lesions (including medical management);

Training Requirements

- Independent general practitioner as defined by RNZCGP and MCNZ

Clinical Assessment Requirements

- Audit of 20 skin lesions
- Histology arranged by GP to be forwarded directly from Pathlab to the Credentialing Panel at the WBoP PHO
- Lesion samples must be less than a year old
- Incomplete or inadequate excision rate < 10%
- Benign to Malignant ratio for pigmented lesions not less than greater than 3:1
* To be confirmed
- Wound infection rate < 5%

Credentialed Level: Intermediate

Treatment Level

- Skin cancer detection;
- Skin cancer medical management;
- Skin cancer prevention;
- Punch biopsy / incisional biopsy / excisional biopsy / shave biopsy;
- Cryotherapy;
- Simple ellipses, direct closure lesions;
- Excluding digits and T zone;
- Head & neck, and below knee lesions \leq 5mm;
- Elsewhere 6mm to 10mm;
- Refer margin and grading table.

Level of Knowledge

- Standard diagnosis, management and referral of melanoma, BCC, SCC and benign lesions (including medical management);
- Layered closure techniques;
- Dermoscopy to “3 point level”;
- Basic clinical photography.

Training Requirements

- BOPCS “foundation course” February 2007 plus achieve satisfactory ongoing audit requirements or;
- Dr Bialostoki one day course, plus pass Sharad Paul Australasian College Skin Cancer Medicine (ACSCM) cert or;
- University Queensland “Healthcert” Course plus pass exam or;
- ACSCM certificate level course plus pass exam or;
- Another skin surgery GPI equivalent level course and pass either: exam for that course or pass Sharad Paul Australasian College Skin Cancer Medicine (ACSCM) cert.
- Other verifiable courses recognised by the Credentialing Panel.

Clinical Assessment Requirements

- Histology audit of 30 skin lesion surgeries;
- Incomplete or inadequate excision rate < 10%;
- Histology arranged by GP to be forwarded directly from Pathlab to Credentialing Panel at the WBoP PHO;
- Histology samples must be less than a year old;
- *Benign to malignant ratio for pigmented lesions not less than 3%;
* To be confirmed
- Wound infection rate < 5%.

Credentialed Level: Advanced

Treatment Level

- Skin cancer detection;
- Skin cancer medical management;
- Skin cancer prevention;
- Punch biopsy / incisional biopsy / excisional biopsy / shave biopsy;
- Cryotherapy;
- Curettage;
- Below knee lesions 6mm to 10mm, simple ellipses, if direct closure can be achieved;
- Head and neck lesions 6mm to 10mm direct or layered closure;
- Basic T zone work limited to simple elliptical excision < 4mm;
- Basic flap closure **excluding** T zone, ears and compromised / complicated limbs and scalp;
- Elsewhere 11mm to 15mm;
- Refer margin and grading table.

Level of Knowledge

- Standard diagnosis, management and referral of melanoma, BCC, SCC and benign lesions;
- Theoretical knowledge as required by qualifying courses (refer Training Requirements);
- Layered closure techniques;
- Dermoscopy to “3 point level”;
- Basic clinical photography.

Training Requirements

- BOPCS certificate;
- University of Queensland “Healthcert” advanced course plus pass exam or;
- Sharad Paul Australasian College Skin Cancer Medicine certificate, 2 day course, plus pass exam or;
- Any other verifiable course recognised by the Credentialing Panel.

Clinical Assess Requirements

- Histology or 35 skin lesion surgeries;
- Histology arranged by GP to be forwarded directly from Pathlab to Credentialing Panel at the WBoP PHO;
- Histology samples must be less than a year old;
- Two series of clinical photographs one of which is a skin-flap repair showing:
 - pre-operative markings;
 - intra-operative before sutures are applied;
 - post-operative after sutures are placed;
- Incomplete or inadequate excision rate < 10%, unless part of a planned two stage process;
- Benign to malignant ratio for pigmented lesions not less than 3%;
- * To be confirmed
- Wound infection rate < 5%.

Credentialed Level: Advanced Plus

Treatment Level

- Skin cancer detection;
- Skin cancer medical management;
- Skin cancer prevention;
- Punch biopsy / incisional biopsy / excisional biopsy / shave biopsy;
- Cryotherapy;
- Curettage;
- Below knee lesions 11mm up to 15mm;
- Head and neck lesions 11mm up to 15mm;
- T zone 5mm to 8mm;
- Elsewhere 16mm to 20mm;
- Basic face flaps;
- Split skin grafts;
- Full thickness skin grafts;
- Staged procedures (up to three procedures);
- Refer margin and grading table.

Level of Knowledge

Theoretical knowledge as required by qualifying courses (refer Training Requirements)

Training Requirements

- Existing BOPCS certificate;
- ACSCM 5 day course and achieve ACSCM diploma or;
- SCCA four day Brisbane course and achieve ACSCM diploma or;
- Any other verifiable course recognised by the Credentialing Panel.

Clinical Assessment Requirements

- Histology audit on 40 skin lesion surgeries;
- Histology arranged by GP to be forwarded directly from Pathlab to Credentialing Panel at the WBoP PHO;
- Histology samples must be less than a year old;
- Two series of clinical photographs one of which is a skin-flap repair showing:
 - pre operative markings
 - intra operative before sutures are applied
 - post operative after sutures are placed
- Incomplete or inadequate excision rate < 10%, unless part of a planned two stage process;
- Benign to malignant ratio for pigmented lesions not less than 3%;
* To be confirmed
- Wound infection rate < 5%;

MARGIN AND GRADING TABLE

Grading of Lesions by Location and Size

Anatomical Lesion Location Credentialing	Lesion Size (Diameter mm)
Head and Neck	
Intermediate	≤ 5 mm
Advanced	6 mm to 10 mm
Advanced Plus	11 mm to 15 mm
Hospital	≥ 16 mm
T Zone	
Advanced	≤ 4 mm
Advanced Plus	5 mm to 8 mm
Hospital	≥ 9 mm
Below the knee	
Intermediate	≤ 5 mm
Advanced	6 mm to 10 mm
Advanced Plus	11 mm to 15 mm
Hospital	≥ 16 mm
Elsewhere	
Basic	≤ 5 mm
Intermediate	6 mm to 10 mm
Advanced	11 mm to 15 mm
Advanced Plus	16 mm to 20 mm
Hospital	≥ 21 mm

Basic:

Surgery on lesions equal to or under 5 mm in diameter (except where the lesion is located on the head and neck, T-zone or below the knee).

Intermediate:

As for Basic plus surgery on lesions equal to or under 5 mm in diameter on the head and neck and below the knee and lesions between 6-10 mm in diameter elsewhere (except where the lesion is located on the T-zone).

Advanced:

As for Intermediate plus surgery on lesions between 6-10 mm in diameter below the knee and on the head and neck, lesions under 4 mm in diameter on the T-zone, and lesions between 11-15 mm in diameter elsewhere.

Advanced Plus:

As for Advanced plus surgery on lesions between 11-15 mm in diameter on the head and neck and below the knee, lesions between 16-20 mm elsewhere and lesions between 5-8 mm on the T-zone.