

Austin Health Dermatology Skin Cancer Assessment Clinic holds weekly sessions to assess and treat patients with proven skin cancer or suspicious lesions.

Department of Health clinical urgency categories for Specialist Clinics

Urgent: Referrals should be categorised as urgent if the patient has a condition that has the potential to deteriorate quickly, with significant consequences for health and quality of life, if not managed promptly. These patients should be seen **within 30 days** of referral receipt. For emergency cases please send the patient to the Emergency department.

Routine: Referrals should be categorised as routine if the patient's condition is unlikely to deteriorate quickly or have significant consequences for the person's health and quality of life if specialist assessment is delayed beyond one month.

Exclusions: Patients referred to this clinic must have biopsy-proven skin cancers or suspicious lesions, following examination and assessment by a General Practitioner. Patients with the following conditions & contraindications should not be referred to this Clinic: pacemaker, anticoagulation poorly controlled, requirement for antibiotic prophylaxis, cosmetically sensitive area.

Condition / Symptom	GP Management	Investigations Required Prior to Referral	Expected Triage Outcome	Expected Specialist Intervention Outcome	Expected number of Specialist Appointments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of suspicious lesions (onset in last six months) Recently biopsy-proven skin cancer (can be removed by simple ellipse) 	<p>When to Refer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If biopsy has proven skin cancer Following GP examination and assessment of lesion/s. <p>Previous treatment already tried:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination and assessment of lesion 	<p>To be included in referral Clinical history and examination</p> <p>Imaging Nil</p> <p>Diagnostics Biopsy result (current at time of referral)</p> <p>Instruct patient to bring diagnostic results to the Specialist Clinic appointment.</p>	<p>Urgent: N/A</p> <p>Routine: Patient will be treated in turn</p>	<p>Biopsy</p> <p>Excision</p> <p>Review of biopsy (via telephone) or for ROS (in clinic)</p> <p>Discharge to GP unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmed Melanoma (referred to General Dermatology or Melanoma Clinic) Risk factors present for further lesions Major complications of procedure (referred to General Dermatology clinic) 	<p>1-2 depending on results of biopsy, following which patient will be discharged to GP or referred to another Austin Specialist Clinic.</p>